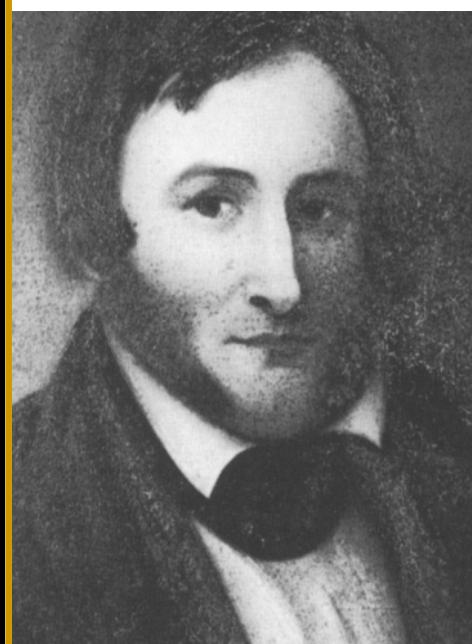
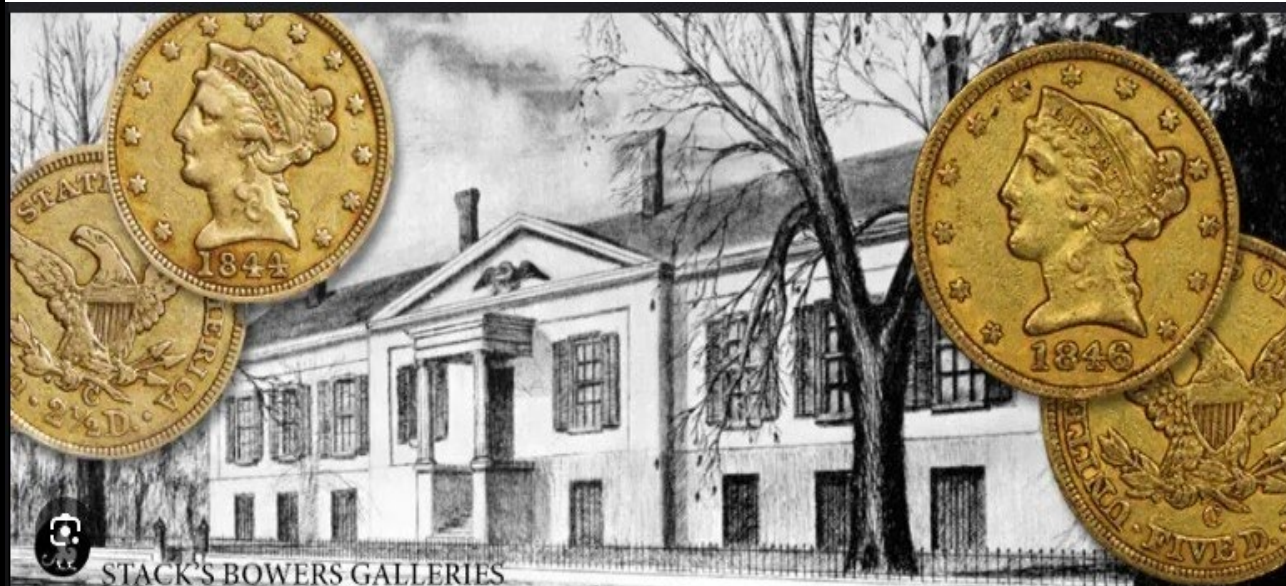


The Charlotte Mint

1837 – 1861



Superintendent John H. Wheeler

A

Chronological History copied from

***the letters of correspondence in the
National Archives of this Mint's day-
to- day operations.***

Authored by Richard G. Kelly & Nancy Y. Oliver

The Years of the Charlotte Mint

1837 – 1861

It was faced with challenges, one as serious as closing it for a two-year stretch from 1844 until 1846 because of a devastating fire. Charlotte was to close in 1861 when at the start of the Civil War, the Confederacy took over the facility. From that point on, it was to never strike coin again, but did become an Assay Office for the region until 1913 when the building closed for good ceasing all federal operations. The following story is repeated from the handwritten words of the people who were there during the turbulent and boon times of this Southern Mint.

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Note:

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Richard G. Kelly & Nancy Y. Oliver
4095 Kingsbarns Drive, Roseville, Ca. 95747-6381
Email for both authors: nancyoliver4714@comcast.net

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Branch Mint at Charlotte, N.C.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE undersigned, as Commissioner in behalf of the United States, will receive proposals for the erection of a Building in the Town of Charlotte, intended for a *Branch Mint*.

The building is to be 125 feet in front by 33½ feet in depth, with a projection in the rear of the centre, of 53 by 36 feet, and to be two stories in height, with a basement story of 5 feet above the surface of the ground. The basement, in front, to be of hammer-dressed range work—the principal and Attic stories of brick. The sills and heads of the windows to be of stone; the cornice of brick, the roof covered with zinc. The basement and principal stories are to be arched, with groin arches, throughout the front building. The whole work to be of the best materials; to be executed in a workmanlike and substantial manner, and to be completed by the 1st of January 1837.

A detailed description of the building, with any information respecting it, that may be required, will be given by the undersigned, on application made to him by letter, postage paid.

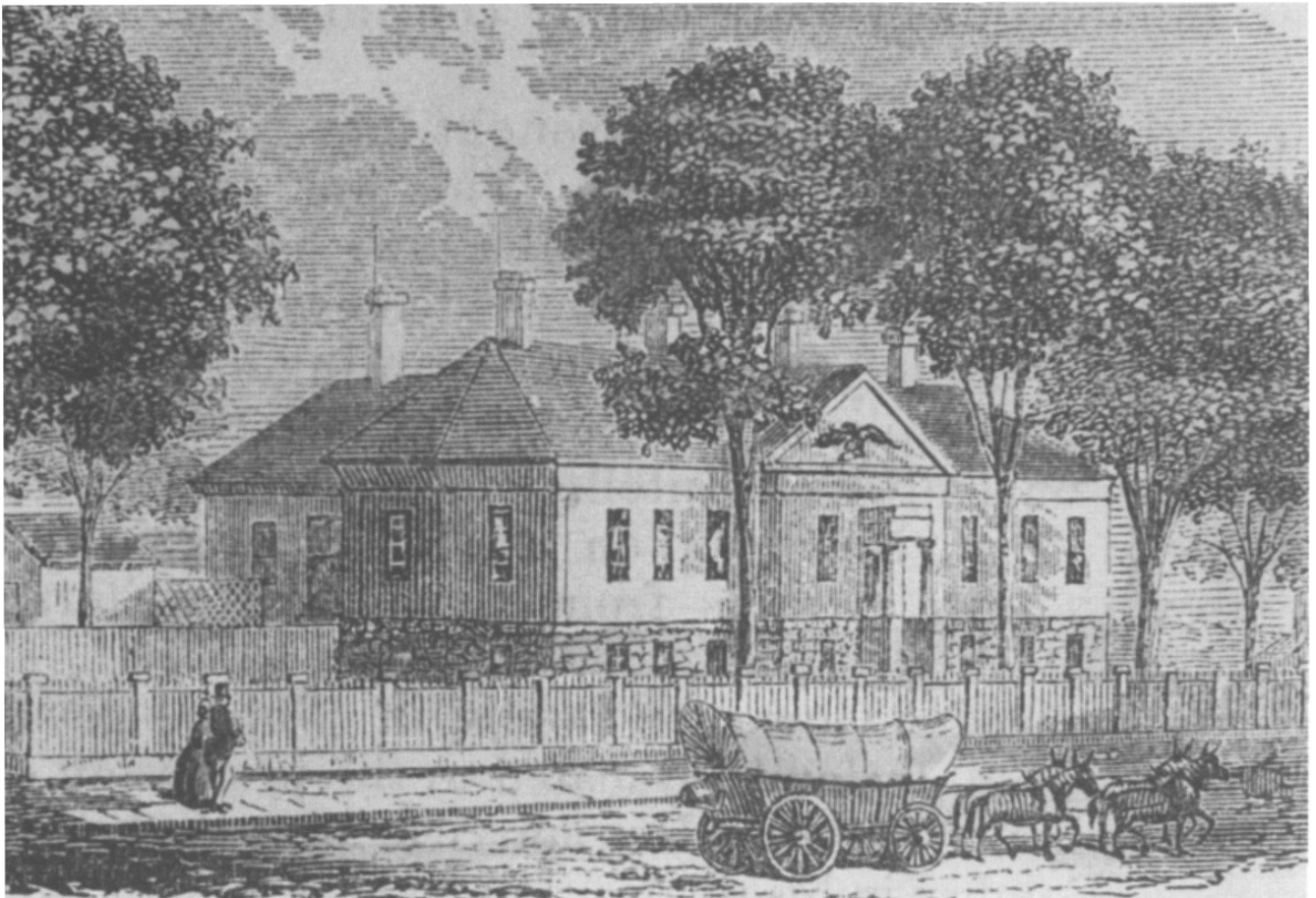
Plans and elevations of the building may be seen on application to the undersigned, at Charlotte, or to the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia.

The proposals will be kept open until the 15th day of October 1835, when the contracts will be concluded for the entire building, or for such parts thereof as may be agreed upon.

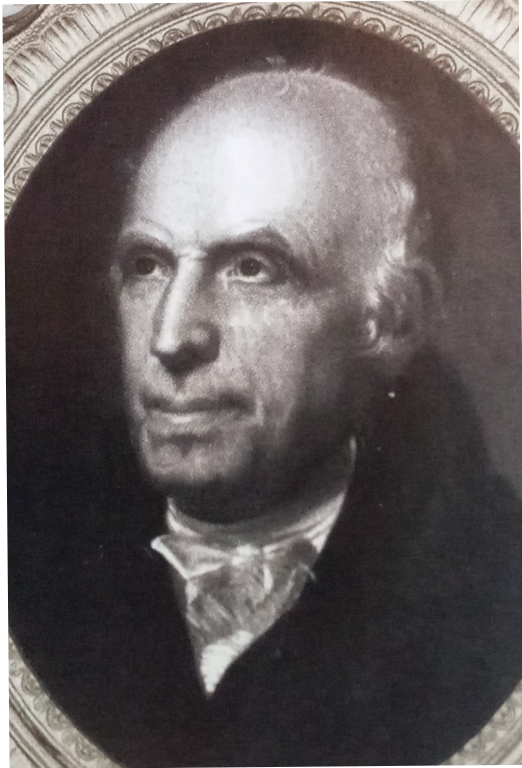
Sam'l. McComb,

Commissioner Branch Mint, Charlotte, N. C.
September 1st, 1835.

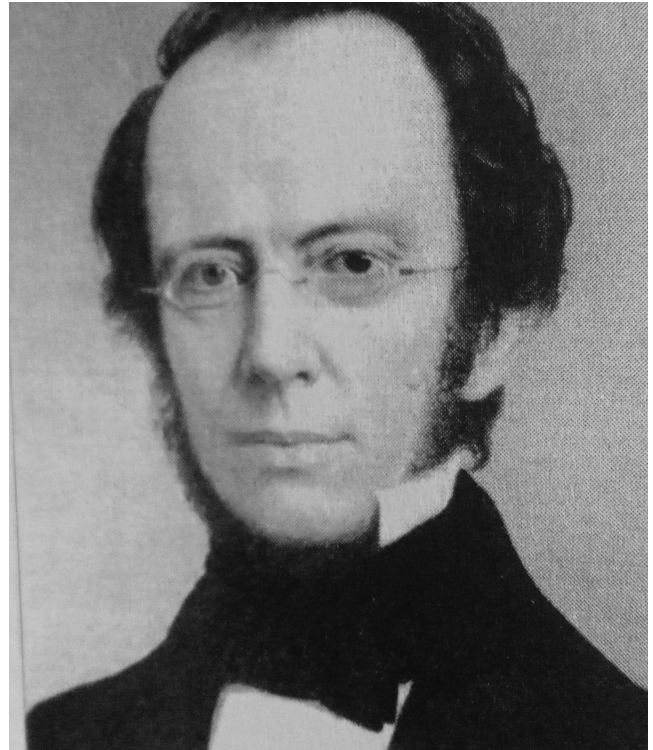
* * The Richmond Enquirer; Globe, Washington City; Raleigh Standard, and North Carolina Journal, will insert the above until the 15th of October, and forward their accounts to the Commissioner for payment.



The Charlotte Mint in its early days



*Mint Director Robert Maskell
Patterson July 1835 to July 1851*



*Mint Director James Ross Snowden June 1853 -
April 1861*

Mint Directors for most of the period of the Charlotte Mint's tenure

The Charlotte Mint 1837 – 1861

The Act of March 3rd, 1835 that established the three southern mints, including “one branch at the town of Charlotte, in Mecklinburg county, in the state of North Carolina, for the coinage of gold only, provided that their officers be appointed upon the nomination of the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate: one superintendent, one treasurer, one assayer, one chief coiner, one melter, and one refiner.” In addition, the Act provided that the superintendents at Charlotte and Dahlonega also perform the duties of treasurer.

This particular work is put together in chronological order from September of 1837 until May of 1861 – at the point of which the Confederate Government took over the facility. Many of the records for this mint were misfiled and had to be found in either subsequent years, or years before. Also, many of the records (maybe 2 or 3 dozen) were badly smudged from the 1850 period on, and most, or nearly most, were unreadable. Nevertheless, the vast majority that were still intact provided a complete picture of the workings of this southern mint. The authors have provided highlighted letters that pertain to only the coinage or dies – these we deemed quite important especially when there were a few instances that mintages conflicted with formerly accepted production numbers.

Thus, this tome is being presented as a donation to Newman’s Numismatic Portal for all to use free of copyright restrictions. It is also done this way in appreciation of the hard work of copying all these lettered documents from the National Archives from Roger Burdette, Robert Julian, and the archivists at the Archives. Their untiring efforts are greatly appreciated.

So, we begin this work with this:

The Year of 1837

(The start of bullion deposits but not yet coinage)

September 8th, 1837- Mint Director Robert Patterson to Charlotte Mint Superintendent John H. Wheeler – yours of the 31st, of August received with the enclosed check for \$100 for Jeremiah H. Bolton and John Rigler for traveling expenses, and properly charged to your Branch. Happy to hear your health has improved and able to to be at your station. Dr. Gibbon will be there to meet you and Mr. Peale also with his

daughter. Feel that to have doorkeepers and watchmen at your mint is essential. I am not in favor of your placement of an Eagle sign in front of your building. Do not like any steps in the project until you consult with Peale about it. Because of Peale's experience in mint matter, you and I, need to trust his opinions and decisions.

With all installations completed, it was expected that coinage operations would start before the end of the year. The Charlotte Mint's first Superintendent, John H. Wheeler, announced to the local press on December 4th, 1837, that the Mint was ready to begin receiving gold bullion deposits. However, it wasn't until nearly three months later that coinage was to begin. The several reasons for the delay begin with the first letter of January 2nd, 1838 from Superintendent Wheeler, and all succeeding letters begin forthwith.



John Hill Wheeler – First Superintendent at Charlotte

The Year of 1838

(Numerous delays until first coining on March 26th, then a controversy and a year total mintage question)

January 2nd, 1838 – Wheeler to Mint Director Robert M. Patterson – Approved of a design for a shed for wood at the side of the mint. Said that Mr. Peale (Coiner at Philadelphia to assist) have also sent sketches for out buildings, but find private

residences adjacent and would be difficult to prevent the servants from using public fuel for the kitchen and houses. It was intended, in the design of the Mint building that the kitchen would be in the basement story, and it was thought the cellars would be sufficient for the fuel. You have arranged it otherwise. I doubt not, for sufficient reasons, but you will not, I am sure, forget that the accommodations of this mint is to be first considered, and that it was for this the appropriation was made. Peale has arrived with safe with his daughter, but made a narrow escape with their lives, from being involved in the terrific railroad accident of which you have accounts in the public papers.

January 7th, Wheeler to Patterson – “We are using constant efforts to commence coining, and are daily receiving bullion, for the most part of which deposits require the coin when it is ready.” Said that it was not his intention to convey to the miners that we were to commence coining but that we were ready to accept bullion. Local papers did inform the public that coining would not start for several weeks. The sulphuric acid was all broke at and before it reached Charleston. The Assayer is doing all he can to prepare ingots – and everything else is ready to operation. The zinc roof still leaks, even though I send workmen to cover it. Believe we need a new roof and suggest shingles.

January 17th, - Coiner John R. Bolton to Patterson – Have seen different Union newspapers that erroneously report that the mint is in full operation. He repeated that they are not ready to coin – except for a few copper pieces for trying the dies. He could not say when he would receive gold for coining. Said that before Peale left he said he would have a pair of balances sent for the adjusting room but he may have forgotten. They are of course necessary. Hopefully, you can send them ASAP, and also a set of penny weights and grains. He has borrowed one but doubts its accuracy. All in good health here, some frosty weather in the morning, but fine and warm in the day.

January 21st, - Assayer Dr. John H. Gibbon to Patterson – reports that when melting precious metal in the vats, repeatedly gave way past the covers – preparations are now made to secure them. These were the first melts made in the mint. However, the Melter, Mr. Irwin, became very nervous from the interruptions, and after the accident to the crucibles. A layer top was finally attained and sustained the melts. I am anxious to supply ingots for coin at the New Year- but no gold sufficiently fine to be ready to melt has been presented. Also, waiting for the sulphuric acid to arrive.

January 22nd, - Patterson to Wheeler – Your zinc roof has failed in consequence of the want of skill of the workmen who first put it in your differing climate than ours. Our Philadelphia roof is tight. In your case, more soldering needs to be done, and not have faith in a white paint or white lead. Parts need to be replaced when bad, and I cannot think that will need a new roof.

January 23rd, - Wheeler to Patterson – grateful that you approve of my design of erecting a shed for wood and coal. Regret that you were misinformed that the house for the mint, and my private use are adjacent and common. Wheeler explained that there is a partition in the house which renders access to the dwelling to the part allotted to the mint impossible, so that if his servants were disposed to use the public fuel, the wood for the mint would be secure from them. He is still boarding at the hotel – and still for some time, and if the kitchen was finished, it would not be used, and he would put that whatever time it may be used, the public property will be sacred in my hands. Please send us a pair of ¼ eagle dies and when can we expect them?

January 24th, - Patterson to Wheeler- have received your info of not yet commencing operations, but hopefully you will soon see that I might see your first specimen. The balances are on their way to New York and shall be sent to your mint.

January 25th, - Wheeler to Patterson – need rollers for the Coiner as soon as possible, and Mr. Bolton suggests that they be imported from England. This lack is causing an unexpected obstacle to our progress. Have had some difficulty about the pay of workmen for this month since the fund is exhausted at the Treasury, and I have none at hand. Hopefully, the passage of the general appropriation bill will be passed soon. Hate to annoy you with these questions, but it is embarrassing to me, and I can if necessary to inquire for funds from our local bank. Is not the fund for the year of 1838 for laborers for this Branch (\$3,000) too small, since in a letter you suggest the propriety of employing Door Keepers, Watchmen, and Fireman? Have hired according to law, but the workmen have had to do extra work and if they are to continue to do so (which I will try to avoid) the estimate will be too close. Can you suggest an increase, if a Door Keeper, Watchmen and fireman is granted?

January 30th, - Patterson to Wheeler – said that he was not misinformed as to the wood house, he was uninformed. He saw only a rough sketch of the arrangement of your grounds and buildings made by Mr. Peale, which he naturally consulted when you asked my opinion of erecting an additional shed. I did not inquire whether you had taken measures to separate the mint from your area – I just took this for granted. Patterson ordered a pair of ¼ eagle dies and let me know as soon as you begin your coinage of ½ eagles and send him a specimen.

January 30th, - Patterson to Assayer Gibbon – this letter in answer to his question of base metal amounts in a melt, and how to deal with it. Explained in detail and not repeated here. But Patterson did say that you will not charge less than 10 cents to a depositor of gold, even if there are other items to which such charges would be added. He also was disappointed that Gibbons couldn't provide ingots for the Coiner, but understood his situation.

February 6th, - Patterson to Wheeler – sorry to hear about the rollers defect as to hardness. Locally, Mr. Sellers says that they use the same iron used in England for them. I am embarrassed to know what cause to pursue in regard to them. To get rolls from England would take 4 months. Sellers offers to send chilled rolls for you, but not sure of their success. Mr. Alger of Boston rolls failed at our mint, but I will today make particular attention to this. Eckfeldt here proposes that Bolton must anneal his gold frequently, must roll down a little at a time, and depend for accuracy and finish upon his draw bench. This may help until they can be replaced. Said also that Wheeler should manage his operations as to have to allow for extra work. I am confident that in 10 hour day of work that all the duties should be completed in that span. But Patterson is agreeable to any extra time that is necessary. Lastly, he is interested to go to Washington after the Annual Assay, on the 10th, and would be happy to meet you there, if you think you can leave your mint before it is fully operational.

February 7th, - Wheeler to Patterson – I forgot to inform you last week that the lower or driving roller of the machinery, while rolling for the Melter/Refiner (M/R), broke short in the neck, close to the body of the Roll, which rendered it useless. Coiner thinks they are too large for the power. Hope that you have ordered replacements from England. Need scales for the adjusting room, and have the weigh room scales and weights arrived from France? He will see here if locally the rollers can be repaired. Agrees to his notes on our roof and will be redone and try solder. Could you contact the Committee of Ways & Means for an item sufficient for a new zinc roof, or shall I?

February 14th, - Gibbon to Patterson – carboys of sulphuric acid casks of crucibles have arrived just in time for separation of metals.

February 15th, - Patterson to Wheeler – you most assuredly must have had adjustment scales by this time. I am astonished to find you at this late moment, mention the want of an article without which you could never take a step in coinage. There must be a mistake in the matter. What scales do you refer to? Hopefully, not the small adjusting scales. The vessel with the scale beams made in France have not yet arrived – looking daily. Casting of rolls are being done here, and do not wish to wait for English rolls. We have furnished old rolls for you use for now. Mr. Eckfeldt informs your Coiner to take but a small grip at a time.

February 16th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – violent storms of wind has blown the zinc covering from the roof of the mint above the assay department. Please replace with shingles as soon as possible.

February 16th, - Wheeler to Patterson – (this letter was sent before Wheeler received Patterson's 15th letter) – Wheeler reports his Coiner's desire to get new rolls from England. The defect in both of them, one is broken, and that he feels Mr. Sellers (one who originally sent them) will send replacements no better in quality. They went up to Lincoln last week to inquire about new rolls, but does not look promising. Says Bolton will write Eckfeldt (of course the 15th letter gives Bolton the needed advice). Wheeler repeats the note from Gibbon about the zinc loss from the roof and has written the Secretary of the Treasury, referring the matter to you, to ask for a \$200 appropriation bill to roof the mint. Wheeler says he cannot leave his post to see Patterson in Washington.

February 16th, - Gibbon to Patterson – Understand that we are to receive an additional force of 3 men – a fireman, a watchman and a messenger. Let me suggest, since my operations are important, that I have an assistant. The messenger would only be needed for 3 hours of the day when we are open for visitors. Two men could perform all that is required in the melting – assaying – refining and cleaning of rooms without delays. During the process of separating, reduction, etc., I find it necessary to postpone all assays – the manual labor of carrying coal wood and water is (unreadable) and much impedes our work, for all the implements are far removed from my apartments. The water must be collected and carried from the spouts below to the upper story. Some of this inconvenience might be modified in time – but the labor we now undergo is excessive. Errors in workman's life must be consulted, add only to our delay because of the interruptions. To give an example, there was an incident that involved the town of Charlotte somehow, (the explanation mostly unreadable). Finally, Gibbon did not think the salary of the Assayer and Melter is not adequate to the duties and responsibilities he undertakes. He last notes that a violent wind and several days of rain have caused off the roofing of our section of the mint. This has caused extensive damage to our washing apparatus by the water coming in. There are about 10,000 shingles on hand and the workmen are doing what they can to apply them to the roof. We have a full prospect of protection only if the wind subsides.

February 23rd, - Wheeler to Gibbon – requests reports on 1. The progress made toward the completion of fixtures, necessary for the successful operations of your duties. 2. The amount assayed, separated, refined, and made into ingots. 3. Info on improvements in your department and how soon after a deposits made that an assay can be ascertained. And, if you have not made any ingots, when will that happen. This same letter was sent to Coiner Bolton.

February 24th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – Assaying apparatus, fixtures, and furnaces are now in complete order. Assays of deposits have been made since December 19th. Melting is not yet supplied with all the conveniences but it is sufficiently prepared. But

there is a want of water – the well does not provide the proper quality and does not provide enough. So we have relied upon the roof to supply, but that is dangerous for m workers. Suggest to fill a reservoir (supplied with wastewater pipes) from the spouts of the roof. It has been difficult to hold 2 positions here – Assayer and M/R. With the limited number of hands here it is difficult to have both of the above departments working in tandem. Need more workers to operate at an efficient rate. Even though my workers have had very slight experience in mint work, they have done their duties with sufficient care, accuracy and intelligence. The gold ingots thus far are not sufficiently fine for the problem of separating the silver from it. Thus all my arrangements have to be perfect before the Coiner can do his work.

February 26th, - Bolton to Wheeler – the fixtures, apparatus and machinery is ready for coining and has been since the beginning of the year. Have not struck coins, because of no ingots. Still necessary to have new rollers as soon as possible and of better quality.

February 26th, - Patterson to Gibbon – there really is no limit at this time on number of employees for your mint and will pursue this matter for you.

February 26th, - Patterson to Wheeler – the use of shingles to repair your roof has my support. I know now that the Dahlonga Mint will face the same difficulties and will address it before the damage is repeated there.

February 26th, - Wheeler to Patterson – in answer to your question, Coiner Bolton does have the small adjusting scales, but a larger pair is needed that will weigh from 3 to 5 pounds in order to weigh maybe 100 half eagles. We have 6 pair of of small scales. Coiner has three – the Assayer has 3. Trust that Mr. Sellers will send us better rollers, but in the meantime, we request any further, or more at this time, from England. Bolton has taken the advise with the rollers and given a small grip at a time. If you could see the fracture you would see that the iron used never was fit for the rolls.

February 28th, - Wheeler to Patterson – per your request, the progress of the structure of the mint and environs is almost complete,. The outhouses, such as my kitchen, stables, wood house have all been erected. Fencing in rapid progress – hope to finish by May 1st. Contract was for 14th of December last, but timber hard to come by.

March 12th, - Wheeler to Patterson – a covering has been placed temporarily on our roof. We are not progressing rapidly as we should but I am sure you have read our reports and know why Gibbon says that he has difficulty finding time to do the assays, and I agree that he needs an Assistant Assayer. Our Blacksmith, Mr. Robertson, is not

satisfied with his wages. He receives more pay than the rest of the workers and is an excellent worker, but I do not feel authorized to increase his wages,. It would create a discord with the other workers. If he leaves, could you send me another? When will our ¼ eagle dies come here?

March 14th, Gibbon to Patterson – the blacksmith wants \$3 per day and was not satisfied with replies to that request and had had offers from other establishments. He can make repairs to the machinery, and also acts as an engineer. He is an excellent machinist and an important one. He feels that the Blacksmith's request is trifling, not greater than he would obtain somewhere else. He has a desire to leave the mint – but the Superintendent already talks of employing an English Blacksmith from one of our mines. Last note – he hates to interfere in this matter, but in this area there is a want for skilled mechanics, and loss of Robertson would be a detriment to this mint.

March 20th, - Patterson to Wheeler – In response to your March 12th letter. Would it not be civil to ask the Coiner to melt his own ingots? Also would Coiner Bolton object to this addition to his present duties? But since it wasn't originally proposed by law, and if Bolton does not have an objection, I will prepare the amendment to Congress.

March 26th, Wheeler to Patterson – “We are this day coining, and the moment a piece is finished, I will enclose it to you”.

March 28th, Wheeler to Patterson – Our first Half Eagle struck at this branch is enclosed. It will gratify me if the coin meets assay and execution standards. Dr. Gibbon wasn't willing at first to deliver ingots until they were certified by you for fineness, etc. - but he finally relented. But he felt confident enough in them to send them to Bolton. After you received it and approval, then we will begin normal production. Please expedite our quarter eagle dies and scales for the weigh room.

March 29th, - Gibbon to (it is assumed to Patterson and is headed as “Private and Confidential”) – It is difficult to read this letter but it seems that Gibbon needs to explain that he relented for the Coiner to use gold ingots for the 1st striking of half eagles. This was against regulations of not having the ingots authenticated by you, but the Superintendent here was insistent. The Superintendent also said, that by your direction, he was to transport the new coin to Washington himself, but they would have no certificates from Philadelphia. Said that promises were made by the Superintendent to supply coin to miners, banking institutions, merchants, an individual depositors, and Gibbon was relatively informed that the Superintendent charge me with the delay and promises broken – that made last July for coinage. Gibbon told the Superintendent that supplying ingots then would cause potential hazards which might abstract our efforts,. In order to expedite payments in coin, I

made an arrangement with the Coiner to receive the gold ingots/of which I have transmitted fillets to Mr. Eckfeldt at your place – directly from me. He also said that the coin(s) sent should be returned to the mint under our charge and then after ingot authorizations they can be re-struck. Except for the 2 half eagles set you, I did not feel comfortable to have more coin struck to deliver to the Treasurer. The Coiner has decided to delay sending the coin to you until the ingots are assayed by Philadelphia. But the Superintendent saw the 2 half eagles and went ahead and sent you one. Gibbon reiterates that he wishes to do his duties lawfully and is disturbed by what has occurred. Because the promises of a payment to depositors in a short order, and we couldn't comply with coin several depositors were sent away. Hope this will not effect the integrity of the Government and this mint.

March 30th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Fearful of the push back from the Assayer and Coiner of my insistence of coining before truly ready. By putting the pressure on both of them to do so. I have suggested a plan where all the defects will be remedied. Also, Mr. Robertson (Blacksmith) wishes his wages be increased to \$3 per day – receiving \$2.50 per day now. His other workmen receive \$3.276 per day and if he increases Robertson's wages, they might demand an increase as well. Doesn't feel that the appropriation will cover. And, Assayer Gibbon says he wants to increase the wage of one of his workers, can he that without my approval?

March 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – need new rollers ASAP. Only 1 pair in use right now, and they are so indifferent that “it would be out of my power to do much rolling with them.” The rest of the machinery works well. **He has now coined 678 half eagles (\$3,390 worth) – which you know has been done conditionally.** Thinks it would not go well if he was to melt the ingots versus the M/R. It would add too much to my duties, and I beg to be excused from that duty.

March 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – announcement that we (he and Coiner Bolton) together used the 1st gold ingots for the “unofficial” short production of ½ eagles. This gave Bolton an opportunity to test his machinery. Once my fillets come back from Philadelphia, and if they are found to be inaccurate, I will have the Coiner return the ½ eagles for remelt. **If okay, as I anticipate, we will be ready to pay depositors. We have at present of producing nearly \$25,000 in half eagles with the bullion deposited.** Of 5 large earthen jars for silver reduction, only one proves entirely sound. The others have yielded to the boiling acid. It is prudent that we receive a full supply of acid, in case of accident, that we can rely on at least one carboy for assaying. The lighting rod attached to the wing of the building for my use, has separated near the ground and needs repair. Hopefully early attention to it can be done.

April 2nd, - Wheeler to Patterson – update on completion of the building – workmen will be finished by May 1st. Repeat of the note of striking of \$3,390 worth of ½ eagles. He passes along the needs of Coiner and Assayer. He added that he proposed a bill which adds an assistant Assayer, and also provides for the striking of silver here. Feels that silver con would be of great advantage to this section of the country. Silver mine have now been implemented in our area. Suggest an increase of salaries, and a copy of same is being sent to the Secretary of the Treasury.

April 4th, - Patterson to Levi Woodbury (Secretary of the Treasury) – informed him that this day received from Charlotte a well enclosed half eagle – the first of their coinage.

April 5th, -Patterson to Wheeler – received yesterday the ½ eagle and it is a credible one, though Mr. Eckfeldt remarked that the dies were not quite parallel. The “C” is too faint, but that is the fault of our engraver and I have directed it to be amended. The assay of your sent metal is satisfactory after the melt, coins may thus be made from these ingots, but these coins must not be issued until a report be received upon the quality of the gold from this mint. Your precautions have been proper. One piece of gold coin for every 5,000 struck is the norm for assay coins sent to us. Your scales and quarter eagle dies are enroute.

April 7th, Patterson to Wheeler – on the matter of Robertson’s wages. I cannot interfere but consider his wages already very large and that his demanding unattainable (?). You have said that he is skillful, but still be cautious of information. Workmen will try to mettle of new officers. No change should be made without consulting with the other officers, and especially with the officer of which he is attached. The advice from this officer should be yielded to if reasonable.

April 7th, - Patterson to Gibbon – your intention to transfer your gold coins to Washington is unfounded and absurd. My instructions were explicit – that after the fund here for cashing your certificate is exhausted, the \$30,000 of gold which will be in your possession are to be kept for the purpose to continue with your work, and to pay your depositors promptly. I am glad of the caution you have taken until you get full appropriation. I have give Colonel Wheeler instructions on the assay of ingots, which should prevent any further misunderstanding.

April 13th, - Wheeler to Patterson – sent estimates for roofing from Raleigh, North Carolina- shingles roof - \$1,600. Tin - \$2,000, Copper- \$4,500. I recommended the \$2,000 to the Committer of Ways and Means, but if you think Copper, \$2,500 to \$3,000 will be necessary. However, I more support the use of shingles, but fire is a concern with that. To guard against fire, I shall raise chimneys to be higher and a wire bonnet be

placed over the Engine chimney. The Assayer likes the shingles idea, since it will give him more adequate water than the present zinc roof. We eagerly await your reply because the walls are injured from the present exposed state.

April 14th, - Wheeler to Patterson – the Coiner is much engaged but the problem with rollers continues. He puts them in the power lathe, but in rolling they sink in holes of a honey comb appearance. We pray that you hurry Sellers in getting to us the new rollers.

April 14th, - Patterson to Wheeler – I have received your suggestions in your Bill to Congress. However, there is much talk in that body of the large expense of having branch mints. I have had to write a large report in support of them. I do not believe that your Bill will be received at this time. Lastly, I do not feel an assistant Assayer is necessary, but maybe assign a foreman to assist, it works here and should there.

April 23rd, - Wheeler to Patterson – I will accede to your opinion to not send the Bill to Congress thru our representative in the Senate, the honorable Mr. Robert Strange at this time. So the Bill will not be presented until I hear further from you. By the middle of next month, our coinage for present deposits will be complete, and the out buildings, fencing will also.

April 23rd, Patterson to Wheeler – The roof should be zinc and contractor Francis O. Bassier (?) of Philadelphia should be employed. He will go immediately to inspect the roof – to say what can be done – that new zinc will be required – and what will be the cost. Lastly, we will see the status of your rollers.

April 24th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Assay piece of your section melt of ingots received has been assayed by Eckfeldt and found to be 901 3/8 fine. This is with tolerants. Proceed with coinage.

April 30th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Mr. Peal (Philadelphia Coiner) – looked at the rollers at Sellers and thinks one pair may sent forward, though they are not such ass he could wish. Sellers has made promising experiments on the casting of chilled rolls and have some for your size. If they succeed all your difficulties will be at an end. Patterson added that the Dahlonga Mint is having the same problems with softness of the rollers. Patterson thinks that English rolls suggested by Coiner Bolton, is not a certain thing for our last importation of rolls from there had much complaint from Eckfeldt. Last since he felt that Wheeler was a proper judge of having charge for a short time, that your constant attendance does not seem necessary.

April 30th, Wheeler to Patterson – workmen on our out buildings are almost completed, and they have been industrious and faithful. Painting is next and the wood shed will be protected. **Coiner reports that he has coined since last report 1,900 ½ eagles, making \$9,500 and has on hand 983 30/1000 ounces in ingots for coinage.** A want of acid for the Assayer still exists, however an agent in Charleston has informed they can supply the acid and a wagon is expected any time now with one carboy of acid – which is all they can produce right now. It is reported that eventually we could have a continuous source of acid from there at 60 cents per pound – and would alleviate some delays here. Rollers are still a problem, but I know it is one of your priorities to get us new. Looked at the roof, after your letter, and 2 contractors and it was determined the 2/3 or more than there is there now will be required. I will let this matter stand until May or June when I will see you and later to make a contract with Mr. Bussier.

May 7th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Assay piece #3 received and the assay by Eckfeldt found it to be 900 ¾ fine. Continue to strike coin. Your rolls have been sent – not all that we could have desired, but they were the best we could get at this time.

May 8th, - Patterson to Gibbon – We have ordered your acid and my clerk is investigating why it is delayed.

May 8th, - Patterson to Wheeler – will confer with Mr. Bussier here to determine how much zinc roofing will be required. I know you have said you will see me, but I am not aware of any public business that makes such a journey necessary.

May 15th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Glad to hear that rollers and acid are on their way. As to the roof, I will comply to your directions. M/R asks if you have ordered the black pots and crucibles (sand) that he asked for – they are very necessary. As far as my visit, there was no public business demand involved, just wished to discuss with you all the Superintendent's responsibilities, so I could be on the same page, and reassure you of my devotion to duty. Our French scales have arrived, but no weights. The large pair requires adjusting. Please order weights for them. The box was actually marked Dahlonga.

May 15th, - Patterson to Woodbury – forwarded a pair of quarter eagle dies for your perusal to send to Charlotte.

May 15th, - Patterson to Wheeler – had an interview with Mr. Bussier and thought it satisfactory. No reliance should be made on the old zinc and replace it with 6,000 to 7,000 to be sent to you. He has good workmen at \$2 per day for each, and their board paid. Estimate at 4 weeks for the job. Final cost - \$1,500. Let me know if this acceptable. Upon his visit to Washington as of late, he was informed that the New

Orleans Mint had requested wage increases as well, but was informed that appropriations were not there – so it seems quite hopeless for you to ask for the same at your mint.

May 17th, - Gibbon to Patterson – long dissertation on deposits and such, but he does digress on the fineness of his first shipment of ingots with Eckfeldt. Felt that Eckfeldt's fineness was higher than his – 899 versus Eckfeldt at 901 3/8. Gibbon had Dr. Farnham check the ingots out and got 899 1/2. Gibbon felt that Eckfeldt should have done a remelt and re-assay. Yes, still within legal limits, but there was quite a variation between 3 melts. The ingots that were received by the Coiner for the first striking of coin, was transferred without my knowledge, so I was to always know in the future.

May 28th, - Patterson to Gibbon – about your request for a new supply of pure silver. Pure silver is not necessary for your assays, it is enough that it is high quality and free from gold.

May 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – Have not received bullion for coining since last report. **Bullion on hand since last report has been coined. 2,084 ½ eagles – \$10,420. (This is an April striking of ½ eagles, not May as noted in other works)**

May 31st, - William F. Strange (now Chief Clerk at Charlotte) to Patterson – In the absence of Wheeler (who has left for Washington), I send you the statement of operations for the May month. A considerable supply of bullion has been received, but very little assaying has been done, owing to the want of fine silver - supply of which exhausted. Assayer says that there is not enough left to assay ingots for coin. Repeats the 2,084 ½ eagles coined. **Quarter eagle dies have arrived.** Charleston reports the arrival of acid.

May 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – Have now 975 ounces of gold ingots ready for coinage. Exhausted all the fine silver causing a slight delay will occur before assays can be made to prove the standard. Separating process has to be suspended until acid arrives. Some deposits of fine gold may enable me to prepare some ingots for coin, without waiting for the fine gold resulting from separation.

June 4th, - Wheeler to Patterson – not happy with zinc for our roof covering on several counts (he did not elaborate on this). A Major McComb proposes to have the walk in front of the mint paved, and a stone wall erected to prevent a caving in of a deep ditch between the mint and the street. Also believes posts should be put up with chains attached, to keep off horses, cattle, etc. Cost will be \$500. Wheeler feels the pavement would be proper but not the poles and chains. Opinion?

June 5th, - Gibbon to Patterson- to explain, “My request for a supply of fine silver was forwarded upon the discovery that the silver resulting from the process of separation was not entirely free from gold.” Said that Eckfeldt in your place does not depend upon that what he obtains from separation, without subsequent separation. Said that he was cautioned from a French Assayer that the presence of silver (fine silver) is a detriment to the melt of gold. Gibbon continues with many technical notes (mostly unreadable) on his current melting procedures.

June 7th, - Patterson to Wheeler – If you come to Philadelphia, I think I shall be able to change your opinion on zinc roofs. As far as the paving in front of your building – right now I would not pursue the matter – financial appropriations from Congress are iffy at this time. He will however, forward the Bill of which you developed to one – ask for more workers.

June 8th, - Wheeler (in Washington) to Patterson – we have received 1408.13 ounces of bullion – but the mint is delayed for lack of fine silver. Please send 5 ounces of fine silver the Secretary of the Treasury and I will forward it by way of my clerk back at Charlotte for the immediate conveyance of the silver so that all bullion can be converted into coin before my return. Hope to be in Philadelphia in the course of a week.

June 11th, - Patterson to Wheeler – your Bill to the Senate is in hand. Agreeable to the 1st part (?) - the second, by not requiring the coinage of silver at the Gold mints, but mainly giving a discretionary power to do so is also unobjectionable. He was disappointed in the removal of Superintendent franking however, since you know the importance of the affairs of the mint. “To be obliged always to send and receive dies, coins, and assay pieces through the frank of the Secretary of the Treasury gives rise to excess to the mint and delays and can say nothing of the Post Office. But if the Committee of Ways and Means think this right of frank too high a privilege of the head of 4 mints, I am content” Just asking for the good of public service. Lastly, told Gibbon that it is not necessary that the silver introduced be pure, it is enough that it is free from gold. The assaying there has been interrupted unnecessarily, and will not send pure silver from here since you do not need it.

June 13th, Wheeler to Patterson – I regret that Gibbon told Mr. Strange that assaying could not be done for want of pure silver, and still more that I should have made the suggestion to you. I hope you understand that I was just doing my duty for our operations. Have written to Mr., Strange that pure silver not necessary as yo have noted.

June 14th, - Strange to Patterson – I enclose an assay piece of melt for ingots – certified as 899/5 fine and delivered to the Treasurer for eventual coining. Early

certification of some is desirable since a great number of depositors are waiting for payment.

June 22nd, - Patterson to Woodbury – have a note from Wheeler asking for \$2,000 in bullion, and I see no means of avoiding it, and therefore must give it. Though deposits are so low of gold that we can barely spare this small amount. Can you find some way to replenish our bullion fund? A Mr. Newbold has promised a deposit of \$200,000 worth of gold, but it has dwindled down to \$26,500. All the branch mints are expressing great anxiety for the weights which Mr. Hassler is preparing for them. They have excellent balances, but without weights they cannot ensure accuracy.

June 22nd, - Patterson to Clerk Strange – your assay piece sent and or assayer determines a fineness of 900 – within standard – continue coinage.

June 22nd, - Patterson to Gibbon – reports to him Eckfeldt's findings of the 900 fine assay, but says that Strange reported that Eckfeldt's assay was 899 ½ for melt #4. Eckfeldt responded by saying that, "Your (Charlotte's) assays have been generally lower than his – particularly in the disputed case. We suggest that you should be cautious not to use such a high a heat in your muffle, as in that case, a small portion of the gold is liable to be dissipated this is as if you continue to use the large furnace. Eckfeldt will send you thru Wheeler, a portion of pure gold with which you can test your assays. As you report in half a million below Eckfeldt's, it seems to be proved that your silver does not contain any gold. You should filter carefully a part of the solution of nitrate of silver from your process of separation.

June 29th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – the current month I have passed to the Treasurer 945 21/100 ounces of ingots for coin. Also, I have an experienced workman from Columbia, South Carolina to have wooden fixtures in various room repainted.

(Note: Up to May 31st, 1838, - 4,699 pieces of ½ eagle delivered and up to June 30th, - 1,700 pieces more.)

July 7th, - Bolton to Patterson – noted that a letter received here from Wheeler (presently in Philadelphia) that Wheeler has hired a blacksmith there to come to Charlotte to replace our blacksmith. Since it will be in my department, I am upset that I was not consulted. I know he has the power to do so, but I should have been consulted. Just before Colonel Wheeler left, Robertson (our Blacksmith), agreed to take \$2.75 per day wages until Wheeler's return – and then go to \$3 per day – provided there was an appropriation for it. Not aware that Roberts was to be discharged, but it is unlikely that 2 blacksmiths would be needed. If he is to be removed, I regret this. Doing little business at present, Assayer waiting for crucibles to prepare the bullion for coining. Rolls have

arrived and they look much better the old. The old have been turned again, but look worse. Need 2 pair, could you send another?

July 9th, - Wheeler to Patterson – start tomorrow for New York – gone about a week. I have written for a copy of my 1st report (monthly) for you, I have contacted Mr. Bupier (?), until I return to Charlotte – the heat of the weather might make him sick.

July 11th, - Gibbon to (not noted in the records, but probably Patterson) – Deposits have multiplied fast and could have finished them without delay unless I had a large cast iron oven which was the one in general use when I had my instructions from Mr. Eckfeldt. I left Philadelphia after Eckfeldt's trial of it, several alterations were suggested in those designed for the Branch Mints. Had a fire in the English furnaces, but since the accident it has been put up, yet important to us. Very great variations occur in the local atmosphere here- the heated moist which approaches with certain winds and the topography of the area very much affects our furnaces. The different assays of our gold from Eckfeldt arises from the character of our water here. I receive his (Eckfeldt's) suggestions warmly, but desire that we both realize the reasons for differences. Gibbon then discusses his processes with nitric acid.

July 12th, - Clerk Strange to Patterson – enclosed assay piece melt#5 of gold ingots. Reported here at 900. **It is a melt of 468.50 ounces and last coinage from which was ¼ eagles.**

July 17th, - Patterson to Strange – Wheeler now on a visit to New York.

July 17th, - Patterson to Bolton – find that Blacksmith Robertson's wage demand is too exorbitant. Isn't he under the impression that you and he understand the matter – yielding to his demands would effect the other workmen. Feel that if a good workman can be procured for \$2.50, why should he be employed at \$3 to perform the same duty. If your rolls are satisfactory, will send you another pair.

July 20th, - Strange to Patterson – enclosing the first (?) monthly report. Have received 2 casks of black lead pots, and the Wagoner informs us that there were more but from the state of carboys – the mouths and necks of the bottles being completely exposed-they are unwilling to transport without an exorbitant charge. Gibbon says they should be protected by covers to defray accidents, which have occurred in their transportation of acids, - making the wagoners not wanting to transport.

July 20th, - Patterson to Strange – Melt #5 assayed at 900 – a little short – the coins made from are therefor of legal fineness.

July 24th, - Employee Alexander Robertson to Patterson – Surprised to learn that you and Wheeler are attempting to replace me. I know that is in consequence of my asking for a higher wage that I am entitle to. No mechanic can take my place as I fill the place of foreman of Blacksmith, Engineer and hand in general for these wages. When I left Philadelphia you had encouraged me to ask for an increase and was granted by the Superintendent. But you said \$3 was not able for you to give and was offered \$2.50, and to await if there might be further appropriation from Congress. I finally realized it was no longer the Superintendents' intention and said that I would work no more without a wage promise. It was agreed that I was the man they were pleased with and thee was a statement that 25 cents per day to be soon established, with the feeling that \$3 would have to wait for Congress. I then stopped my work stoppage and returned to my duties, believing that the wages would soon come. Feel that Wheeler is too much of gentleman to renig on his promise – and on these conditions I will continue. I hear that Wheeler is in ill health.

July 24th, - Strange to Patterson – Since the casks arrived, we have received 8 carboys of acid, and another cask of black lead pots. Gibbon says that one black lead pot is too big for the furnace here. He said also that we have not received any pot covers. - critically needed. Dr. Gibbon has had severe attack of rheumatism but is getting better.

July 26th, Gibbon to Patterson – I have had too put aside my communication to you from the 22nd till now. Rheumatism followed by infection, with a headache that has lasted. We are 6 weeks behind expectations from want of acid. It has arrived and we are doing our best to catch up.

July 31st.- Gibbon to Wheeler – During the current month 468.50 ounces of gold ingots for ¼ eagles have been transmitted for coinage. Although the carboys have arrived in good condition, it is important that they should have a wooden covering over the bottles. Without, the bottles protrude from the box in which the carboys are inserted – liable to be bruised or broken during shipment here. The boatmen are not careful and the wagoners put their luggage on top of the carboys. One carboy leaked a little and the wagoner tried to stop the leaking acid, but not very successfully. In case of an accidental fire at the mint, I note that the wood-house and sheds are filled with fuel – immediately to the rear of the mint. The wood used in construction, yellow pine, is highly inflammable. The woods around in certain seasons are set on fire to improve pasturage and destroy insects. Many emigrants camping about set fires for their use close to the fence about mint. There is one small fire engine in Charlotte but the mint is on the outskirts – distant from other buildings for the means of procuring water -there are no public pumps or wells. All the houses in the town are not supplied with wells, neighbors depend on each other for water. Different parts of the town have been struck by lightning, and even our Miller's stable for his home were hit, which is "not more than a gunshot distant from the mint." The lighting rods attached to the mint are in bad

condition, one has fallen down, another separated at the bottom. I suggest that the reservoir in the Coiner's department be always full of water, after working the engine. By the actions of the machinery, that water can be used for assaying, melting and refining. When the roof is done, suggest a way to collect rainwater this will add to our security against fire. Please send a supply of hand mittens for our workers for they cannot be found here.

July 31st, - Patterson to Strange – sorry to hear of Gibbon's afflictions and will attend to his black lead pots problem. Wheeler left Philadelphia yesterday and is headed to Washington for a few days.

July 31st, - Bolton to Strange – struck for the month – 2,104 quarter eagles - \$5,560.

August 2nd, - Wheeler to Patterson (from Washington) – the Bill authorizing silver struck at the Branch mints did not pass. This city (Washington) is quite dull. President is absent, Mr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the Secretary of War, left last evening for the Sulphur Springs. I dined yesterday with the Secretary of the Treasury. Glad to hear that the Smithsonian bequest is all to be brought over by Mr. Rush in gold. Leaving here day after tomorrow and will be back in Charlotte in four or five days.

August 6th, - Strange to Patterson – your request of the 31st is complied with the sending by a gentleman from here the same of \$550.50 in gold coins to meet or replace the amount overdrawn on our bullion fund by certificates from this Branch.

August 15th, - Wheeler to Patterson – arrived back on the 11th – found all in good health. Zinc for the roof has been shipped and we need enough copper to make a pipe 4 inches in diameter to supply the reservoirs with water, about 40 feet long.

August 15th, Gibbon to Wheeler – In order to be prepared against delays, under my charge, I propose that a large supply should be at once ordered from the North, in anticipation of the next year's demand. Gibbon then goes on to list several materials in bulk he would like delivered. The list is 2 pages long.

August 17th, Patterson to Wheeler – Pleased with the struck coin from Charlotte.

August 23rd, - Wheeler to Patterson – sent assay melts #6 & 7 for testing. Wheeler wants to establish a regulation that all assaying will be done once a week, say every Monday morning. Now that we have a supply of coin, we can supply our depositors on

time. P. S. - It has been now nearly a month since any assay has been made in this Branch.

August 25th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Gibbon has required Mr. Strange on several occasions his aid in making his assay reports – before he made his report as Assayer. Have requested from Gibbon that the fineness in ink, standard weight, value, and deducting in pencil. Gibbon for a long time refused, and only by my refusing to accept his report, he relented. But in the cases where Mr. Strange has to examine the calculations and correct them, I deem it improper for him to make calculations until the Assayer's report has come in, and this morning I refused Strange's aid for Gibbon for this purpose. Thought all this appropriate on my part since no assay for almost 30 days and at the end of that period only 7 assays. The first calculation should be made by the Assayer, unaided by the clerk or any one else. Gibbon's duties are delicate, but under the circumstances certainly not onerous.

August 29th, - Wheeler to Patterson – found the weighing book deposits, before and after melting, varied very much, and has brought much complaint among our customers. On inquiry, I found that Gibbon used salt peter as a refining flux, and he has repeated the meltings. Talked to him about the regulations and asked him to observe them. This he utterly refused, stated that he was Melter and Refiner and not to be hampered by instructions. Wheeler said he would take note of his refusal to follow directions. In conclusion, this is not the first time that Gibbon has seen proper to disregard utterly the reasonable suggestions made by me, with full regulation's backup. I will not submit to his constant refusal to these necessary regulations. His course "gives rise to constant delays and perplexity."

August 29th, - Wheeler to Gibbon – sends the major 5 points of regulations concerning melting for his perusal and adherence.

August 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler - \$22,250 (4,450 pieces) coined in ½ eagles (to this point from the beginning?) Needs another pair of rollers.

August 31st, -Wheeler to Patterson – Gibbon still refuses to follow regulations on the melting procedures. A bar of excellent gold, after being carefully melted in the mint, was of brittle character. The Assayer refused to take the assay piece unless it was remelted and refined alleging that it was too brittle to take off an assay piece. Our depositors are anxious for the assays and our best customers, of known intelligence. I need to have a uniform and established regulation in conformity with mint usage.

August 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – necessary for him to report that a carpenter working in his department will not take orders from me but only from the Superintendent. And, a laborer working in the garden of the mint will only take the Superintendent's orders. The officers should have the authority to give orders to outside

contractors. The refusal of the Superintendent to permit the Clerk to assist me is noted that there is no regulation that I cannot. The interference has been unwelcome from the Superintendent which interrupts my duties. Feel that my position should be respected. Feel it better to refer at once to the Director to decide this law of difference, than to protract this.

September 1st – Wheeler to Patterson – very well satisfied with his Coiner. Machinery is in perfect order, and his efforts untiring to coin a product credible to this Mint. Needs a new pair of rollers – chilled ones if possible. I afford equal pleasure to the Assay department in terms of commendation. However, his report shows state of things on his part, “which must be painful to you, as it is unpleasant to me.” My first complaint of Gibbon is that his operations are impeded by order which has issued relative to the workmen. The carpenter incident, in which Gibbon was trying usurp my orders, is his feeling that he is an officer who knows better. I felt that the hiring of 2 competent carpenters to improve the Assay department was a good idea – and was under the direction of Gibbon, and also acceptable at the time until lately. Gibbon is now upset that the carpenters will only take orders from me. Gibbon became impatient, and so I ordered the carpenters to expedite their work. Gibbon states what alterations are necessary either for operations or for his own individual comfort. Gibbon has also complained that a laborer, engaged to carry water for separating, wood for engine, leveling grounds, attending garden – has disobeyed his orders. I found that we could not get along without some aid of this kind, and I employed an honest man at \$18 per month. The worker had a lot of demands upon him so I took him under my charge, and when he was wanted to refer the applicant to me. This service has never been denied to Gibbon. The other complaint of Gibbon was the Clerk, Strange, doing his calculations and that he has been discussed at length previously. I feel he has continually refused all contract, and appears under authority and consequence, he must expect to be unpleasantly situated, until he leaves his proper position, or is removed from his office. I have never, until recently complained of Dr. Gibbon’s official conduct. Delays in assaying which produces embarrassment, now that there now lies in the Treasurer vault nearly 800 ounces of gold ready to give to his hands has been laying there since the 1st of May.

September 3, Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #6 at 899 ½ and melt #7 at 899. Therefore approved. As to the calculations of Gibbon’s, it is not of any consequence which is made first, provided that they are independent. Our practice here is that the Assayer always sends his estimates in pencil – seems to be the most convenient and I am confident that Gibbon cannot fail to follow it uniformly, if told that such is our custom and your desire.

September 6th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Gives his almost full support behind Gibbon – in reference to Wheeler's disturbing letter of the 29th. Says that Gibbon in his response to your first melting policy is only a momentary feeling, and he will not fail to comply with regulation. Loss in melting amalgamated gold is very variable, but the appearance of the bullion will always enable the officer to foresee when it is likely to be excessive, and then the fact should always be total to the depositor before the melting, if possible. Patterson then gave other examples of such to Wheeler which involved gold from North Carolina, and Virginia, that are hard to deal with – with final stats. This occurs to us, occasionally in jeweler's gold, and may occur to you with any base metal.

September 12th, - Patterson to Gibbon – your whole tone gave me much distress after reading your report. I worry about the success of your mint and individual contentment of the officers. Your complaint of interference on the part of the Superintendent starting with the carpenters making your fixtures. The 2 carpenters have been employed nearly a year and 6 months, and later you need them longer. The Superintendent is the last authority on this and conferred with you to dispose of their services – you agreed but with reservations. I must say that, "I do not regard the mere fact of Colonel Wheeler's interference as incompatible either with his rights or your own." On another note, I am happy to observe that your assays are all brought up. Of this whole affair, this difficulty can be removed by mutual concession. Please be willing to make some sacrifice in the name of peace.

September 12th, - Patterson to Wheeler – assay melt #8 sent by you is at 898 ½ – allowed, but a bit off to our standards. Suggest a remelt of the ingots, but if already in coin they are still legal to distribute.

September 14th, - Gibbon to Patterson- (This is a 7-page letter from Gibbon, and Gibbon tends to be long winded in his letters, and this not an exception) His full 7 page dissertation will not be fully repeated here, but done in a simplified manner.: Gibbon first admits that delays in fact have been made in assaying bullion and goes on at much, much length to give his reasons. Because of his claim of shortage of hands that it becomes impossible at times to keep up with numerous of deposits entering. Said every exertion has been made by him to prevent delay. I have inquired about deposits every week but depositors have been indifferent about the time of assay – but anxious for coin. Therefore several depositors remain unassayed while we go through the separating process to form ingots for coin. As the period of coinage approached, even more deposits were made with a promise of coin that we could not provide. I was not prepared, and the deficiency of acids hurt. Aware of frustrated depositors, I have deferred other pressing business to make assays which were mostly from disgruntled merchants. Many merchants on the way to the North, stop here for bullion assay, increasing our business. Also we have now depositors who want Treasury Notes in

payment. Here he explained more, and then writes that, "When fault has been found with his (Superintendent's) conduct, he has attempted to place the blame upon my shoulders." went on to say Mr. Irwin, his melter, was given directions that I was not aware of. Felt also that the Superintendent was interfering with operations under his charge. I do not have the communication I need between you and him concerning me – because of which I cannot continue my responsibilities her. The Superintendent has obstructed our operations by injurious orders and trifling disruptions.

September 14th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Mr. Bussier unable to go to Charlotte at this time for the roof he has a roof job at the lunatic asylum in Philadelphia. He has no reason to doubt that he will complete your roofing job despite the late shipment of zinc which forced him to take this job in Philadelphia. He will be more than a month, but if inclement weather begins in autumn he may have to wait till spring.

September 19th, - Gibbon to Patterson – (this is yet another 7 page letter from Assayer Gibbon, and again it is paraphrased) – In another month, he hopes to finish fixtures in his department. The carpenters have done work in other departments as well, the Coiner's, the Superintendent's, and the Treasurer's Clerk. These workmen are slow, bad quality of work, and created delays. Then Gibbon gives examples of the bad quality of work, delays and slowness, When Wheeler came back, I mentioned to him several of these problems, and he said he no longer had appropriations to continue the work. Felt the workmen were withdrawn from him too soon to complete the work in his department, and were allowed to complete the work in other departments but not mine. A laborer padd to working around the mint came to our department with water at the wrong time when we were busy with separation – he ended up using the water to wash the Superintendent's carriage. The Superintendent has been constantly giving directions to the Melter's assistant – adverse to my directions and not to my knowledge. The Superintendent expresses the opinion that he has the authority to direct all the operations of the Branch. His directives have "obstructed the operations, and if in closing so he can prove that he alone has the control." Lastly, Gibbon wrote, "I am tired of this, and almost inclined to ask you to transfer me to New Orleans if any opening occurs there."

September 20th, - Wheeler to Patterson – The Assayer has no grounds for complaint. He said that I did not communicate to him your directions concerning the first melting of deposits, I believe I did, and if I hadn't, than I did not feel it necessary, especially when the regulations are specific. So whose decisions will the workmen respect, when there is a difference of opinion, the Assayer's or mine? I discussed with Dr. Gibbon about having one day, a Thursday, fixed for assays and he public made aware of this edict. So I shall lay down this order with your approval, that Thursday shall be the day. I admit that I am not up to par on "wastage", and Gibbon let me know on that, and I will, with your assistance, learn how the wastage allowance is to be made.

September 22nd, Wheeler to Patterson – the melt #8 sent by us to you has not been responded to – believe it may have been miscarried. Need the results from you to continue coinage. If missing, will send another. Awaiting Mr. Bussiere's appearance for the roof work here -would like him by November 1st. The latter half of December is our severe weather and the walls and implements of the mint would suffer severely from the winter.

September 24th, Wheeler to Patterson – enclose an assay piece from Melt #9 of gold ingots.

September 26th, - Patterson to Gibbon – I find with your letter of the 14th, great injustice and force in many of your remarks. I will avoid entering this conflict at present as my only design now is to see the feeling that has arisen between the Superintendent and yourself about removal. The causes that come from it seem no longer to exist. I cannot see anything in the existing case not easily remedied, if the desire is there. With a feeling of purpose from all parties the questions might never arise.

September 26th, - Patterson to Wheeler- your suggestion of one day for assaying got my attention, but I doubt, under the circumstances, the expediency of no direct an exercise of authority. An officer of the mint should be willing and able to fulfill his duties and allowed to have freedom to do his work when he can. I approve of the idea of 1 or 2 day reserved for assaying and I brought it to Dr. Gibbon, but I am not prepared to say that he would be held to an exacting rule – where he might feel a restraint on his liberty of action. "I do not like too much governing." Officers are responsible but should be left free as possible. Your last assays were well attended to, and no more complaint of delays. I hope that all feelings of conflict between you both virtually removed, with all proper feelings in practice. Patterson finished with an explanation to Wheeler about the proper procedures for wastage.

September 27th, - Patterson to Wheeler – have just received your letter and Dr. Gibbon on the same unhappy subject. I wrote the both of you yesterday and do not change my views with this letter. My most sincere desire is reconciliation and good understanding, so how about a shaking of hands of you both?

September 28th, - Wheeler to Patterson – have your verification of melt #8. The gold has been made into coin – we needed the coins. My private business will keep me away for a few days in Philadelphia – latter part of next month – when I will see you.

September 29th, - Bolton to Wheeler – **coined \$8,750 in ¼ eagles and \$10,000 in half eagles making \$18,750. (This is not pieces, but dollar production)** A P.S. in this

letter that says much rain has fallen and the roof covering my department is leaking badly and water is coming through in many places – injuring walls, and machinery. New roof as soon as possible.

October 1st, Wheeler t Patterson- with the exception of 185 ounces of standard gold combined with silver, and waiting for acid for separation, all bullion deposited previously the 1st of September has been formed into ingots for coin. All deposits for September have been assayed. Then Wheeler repeats the condition of the roof.

October 8th, - Wheeler to Patterson – your letter of the 26th and 27th I shared with Gibbon, and I hope and believe that all matters are satisfactorily adjusted. Dr. Gibbon says that in the future he will follow the rules that I have laid down, and as long as he assays whenever deposits come in, no objection can arise from this source. I will be applying to the Treasury Department for an increase of our bullion fund of \$30,000. We have found that amount to almost fall short, in several instances, in our payment of coin. I now owe depositors \$17,000, because of the lack of acid for the M/R has caused our production to also lag. As I have no pressing business here, leaving this week for Philadelphia via Washington and be absent about 4 weeks.

October 17th, - Patterson to Wood – sends note from Wheeler in his request for a 50 or 70 thousand dollar bullion fund, and I would need your consult on this subject. The Charlotte mint has received in its 10 months of operations, 5000 ounces in gold deposits – average of 500 ounces per month. Their \$30,000 gives them this amount of this month's work beforehand. If they cannot pay depositors promptly, it must be because they keep deposits more than three months uncoined. You may say this delay is unnecessary but I state that their 10 months work has made only 9 melts of ingots – a small amount per moth. In comparison, the Dahlonga mint, in operation for 7 months has had 16 melts. Feel that, true, there have been numerous problems at Charlotte, I do not feel that more than \$30,000 is justified. It is in the M/R where most of the delay has occurred. But Wheeler assures me that things seem to be straightening out. Cannot give my advice in favor of Wheeler's application.

October 18th, - Strange t Patterson – assay piece from melt #10 is sent.

October 28th, - Strange to Wheeler – glad to hear that the Secretary will advance “any necessary amount”, as without it a suspension of payments must necessarily take place, as I have not more than 2 or 3,000 dollars to make prompt payments. A large amount of bullion has been received this month, 893.13 ounces – much of which will require separation but we are without an ounce of acid. Had we a full supply of acids and sand crucibles, we could get along like clockwork.

October 28th, - Gibbon to Patterson – He is requesting for added compensation for his wages, either in the form of increased salary or an allowance per hour, which could be equivalent to 500 dollars,. The expenses of living here are by no means as moderate as I expected and in the comforts of life are very limited – and health precarious. Have had no opportunity, since the arrival of my family to find a suitable home – and are still in Hotel. Number of good homes is limited – and rents high. Hope there will be some thought on this.

October 30th, - Director's Clerk George F. Dunning to Strange – your melt was at 899. Acid sent of 12 carboys.

October 31st, - **Bolton to Wheeler- 2,200 pieces of the ¼ eagle struck - \$5,500.** Reported also that the well for supplying the Engine has failed, there is but one foot of water left and no prospect of increasing. Should we sink it deeper, we must have more pumps but a cast iron one would be better – the wooden pump will not last much longer,. Please have the dies for next year sent early in December – so that I may have time to prepare. Length of the pump must be 60 feet by 8 inches allowing the well to sink 10 feet deeper. **(Note: Bolton records 2,2024 (\$10,120 worth) of ½ eagles for the month as well (October 1838) in the report on page 75 of Entry 11, 1838, may be confusing totals.**

November 3rd, - Gibbon to Wheeler – the experience of last year induces me to propose alterations, which might prevent delays. The \$30,000 for this mint is too small in connection with the limited number of workmen of the Assayer to enable him promptly to form ingots for coin from that amount of bullion thus purchased by the Government – making assays from such deposits that require to be paid for from the funds. Sometimes the \$30,000 is in transit between the Coiner, Refiner, and Treasurer. While large deposits are awaiting the issue of tedious manipulations. Suggest a sum of \$100,000 be applied, and an additional Assay assistant – economy of time advantageous to operations would ensue. Prompt payment to depositors would be made. A larger amount of fine silver would be required as well. An assay assistant would aid the Assay Department as well as Coining. The position of this int in the neighborhood of extensive mining operations, exposes us to a very large amount of small assays.

November 29th, - Patterson to Wheeler – questions the operation's monthly reports for what he felt were discrepancies – particularly in the report of the amount of coinage struck for each denomination. Deposit reports looked okay, but a just companion of resulting coinage difficult to understand. Not going thru specifics of this letter, it basically says that Coiner Bolton's figures of coinage for each month conflict with the final total for the year. (This confusion is later clarified with Wheeler's letter in answer to explain)

December 1st, Wheeler to Patterson – repeats the report of the dry well and the need to make it deeper. But the work to do so would render a difficult removal of stone work with which it is walled, or to cut through the rock which lies at the bottom. Repeats the Coiner's request for an iron pump and its dimensions. Hopefully, Patterson will approve the pump ASAP. Work in the M/R retarded because of the lack of acid. Mr. Bussiere has arrived with his men and work on the roof may commence shortly.

December 4th. Gibbon to Wheeler – 7,528 ounces of gold bullion received at this mint since the commencement of operations until December 1st. Of that, 5,500 ounces required to be separated from silver by acid – but it is obvious that we do not at present have an adequate supply of acid. Our gold received needs more manipulation than that of Dahlonega because there is more silver in our alloy than that mint, and in addition most of their gold contains copper versus our deposits. The process of the Refinery are very burdensome to us. I still require an assistant in my department. Supply of acids has been moderate at best for us as some loss came from breakage, and a long time in shipment to us from Philadelphia. Bullion has accumulated, everything prepared in advance, this 2nd supply of acid was exhausted in 3 weeks! Since the 15th of September have not had nitric acid for separation and the \$4,000 in gold bullion have remained inactive in my hands. Some black lead pots were of bad quality. Assays have been delayed because sand crucibles could only obtained by partial loans and now that is exhausted. Closets for keeping acids, wooden carpet for the melting room, and lattices for the windows to allow fresh air during the heat of summer here are still in need. If the regulations adopted for obtaining materials for the refiner, we are 3 months at a time unable to separate and melt. Which also means no ingots for coin, and thus keep deposits more than 3 months uncoined. With just 2 workmen doing the process of melting, Refining, assaying and cleaning up, the exertion for us is overwhelming.

December 11th, Wheeler to Patterson – It has been found impossible to sink the well deeper, when it endangers the surrounding wall, for the boilers of the Engine rest on the edge of the well, and the earth being of quicksand, to sink the well deeper might affect the foundation of the mint. Have determined to sink a new well outside of the edifice that should supply a never ending supply of water. The roof work is progressing rapidly. P.S. Please expedite dies for 1839.

December 12th, Patterson to Wheeler – happy to hear business is up. Will check on the price of a pump for you immediately and let you know when about you can receive it. Acids were sent by the “Constellation” in October and we have just sent another supply by the same vessel.

December 12th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Your letter of the 29th regarding our operations summary was wrongly sent to Charleston, South Carolina and just received it

here. An explanation follows as to the coining report discrepancy and quoted here in its entirety: "There is often necessarily a variation between the Coiner's report of operations and the delivery of coin to me. He reports the time of actual coinage, we credit the time of actual delivery. Whenever a variation occurs between the time of coinage and the time of delivery, it is because we have to wait for the verification of the assay from you. The reason chiefly that you were led into error was, that the summary only extended to October, and in November, there was a delivery of \$5,600 = 2,240 $\frac{1}{4}$ eagles, which were reported in the Coiner's report of October, but which not being delivered until the 8th of November of course was not in the summary which extended to the end of October. The reports of the Coiner to me were only intended as a general outline of his proceedings, and cannot be relied upon as implicitly correct, therefore, I will enclose a paper from his office, extracted from his ledger, which will show more accurately his proceedings in my next,. To show that his reports cannot be relied on as correct, the subjoined statement credits him with more coin delivered than his reports state to be coined." P. S. Can further letters be annotated "North Carolina so they won't be sent to the wrong place. **The final coinage report is available in Entry 11, 1838, page 105 and is dated December 12th, 1838.**

December 18th, Patterson to Wheeler – have received communication from you and Gibbon and given him full consideration of his statements. The note that your gold is not quite the quality going to Dahlonega is correct, and that is why you are using more acid. I believe however that the Georgia gold has the advantage of an alloy of copper – this metal not having been found, by us, in the native gold of that State. Gibbon asking for a helping hand is not unreasonable and would not object to it if permitted by law. The law in Congress for such failed. Yes, your location presents disadvantages to getting your supplies from us, so you should pursue more for local supplies. Our clerk here is specifically charged with supplying you. Dr. Gibbon says that he has in view another system for acquiring materials, and I would like to know how and from where he may suggest. Your want of large separating jars have not been executed, simply because we know not where to secure better product. Inquiries to London and Baltimore have arrived back with an equal want of success,. He ordered a pump – that has a 3 foot stroke, a plunger and wrought iron pipe. Cost \$130.

December 19th, Patterson to Wheeler – received your letter of drilling a new well, what will the cost be? Your dies are ordered and will be ready.

December 20th, - Patterson to Wood – the sinking of a new well at Charlotte is absolutely necessary. The price is now \$125 for a new pump for them, - and the cost of a new well could hardly cost \$375. It may be appropriate to add \$1,000 to Wheeler's appropriations because of this extra expenditure.

December 31st, Wheeler to Patterson – Operations for December. No coins for this month. **Gold bullion received since beginning operations – 7,021 ounces equal in value \$130,633.37. Repeats the final mintage amount of coin for the ¼ eagle and ½ eagle** and is disappointed that his mint couldn't provide more."Of course, this our first year and have been experimenting, experienced difficulty, and one of trial. Our monthly reports have shown too many difficulties that grew out of our position which could neither be remedied by science or skill, or avoided by the most prudent foresight. But trust that a year's experience aided by activity and vigilance, will enable us to over come every difficulty, and that during the coming year, this establishment will fulfill all the objects for which it was designed, and realize the wishes of its most sanguine friends." **He reports that they sent 27 half eagles and 14 quarter eagles for assay the past year – which means 1 piece of coin for every 500 pieces.** Provision by law should be made for a Doorkeeper, Watchman, and Fireman for here. I shall be compelled to hire a Watchman to guard the mint at night. I am increasing the pay of each laborer by 25 cents Per Diem which will be within my appropriations. Lastly, I now inform you that our well has now a never failing supply of water – 33feet – 7 inches deep and 8 feet of water We only await the arrival of the pump from you.

December 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – after much trouble, we were able to deepen the well. It took counsel of a scientific engineer, and employed miners from England – and sunk the well 10 feet below its depth. By working day and nights, without intermission, commenced walling up and today have 8 feet of water, where before we had only 6 inches. \$500 is the cost. With the cost of the pump added as well as transportation and for fixing down, the final cost will be \$750. My reports from the Coiner will now be extracted from his ledger for more accuracy.

December 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – another long 5 page letter that will not be repeated here in full. Gibbon feels that any incorrect charge against him has been vindicated, but he continued to drone on and on with specifics. He did say that supplies were not ordered by you (Wheeler) until exhausted. The amount of supplies needed here need to be regulated. Said that so many delays in shipments of course delayed his department and should not be blamed for delayed assays because of this. The services of carpenters for various articles required in my departments are much needed – the reservoir for water, closets for acids- latticed floor – and many minor details which remain unfinished. These should not be delayed for the necessary convenience of my rooms.

First Gold Coinage struck at Charlotte – May 1838 to December 1838

*Report of Coinage at the Charlotte Branch
Mint from December 1837 to December 1838.*

<i>Date of Delivery to Treasury</i>	<i>Denominations</i>		<i>Value</i>	
	<i>1/2 Eagle</i>	<i>1/4 Eagle</i>	<i>Dolls.</i>	<i>Cts.</i>
<i>In May</i>		<i>4,697</i>	<i>23,495</i>	
<i>" June</i>		<i>1,700</i>	<i>8,500</i>	
<i>" July</i>	<i>2,100</i>		<i>5,250</i>	
<i>" Sept.</i>	<i>3,500</i>	<i>4,440</i>	<i>30,950</i>	
<i>" October</i>		<i>2,020</i>	<i>10,100</i>	
<i>" November</i>	<i>2,240</i>		<i>5,600</i>	
<i>" December</i>	<i>40</i>		<i>100</i>	
<i>At each delivery, Assay Pieces were reserved</i>				
<i>Amounting in all to</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>170</i>	
	<i>7,824</i>	<i>12,886</i>	<i>84,165</i>	
<i>Coiner's Office</i> <i>Charlotte 31st December 1838,</i> <i>(signed) John R. Bolton</i> <i>Coiner</i>				

Note: During our examination of the records, we discovered a discrepancy in the mintage of 1838-C half eagles reported by Charlotte compared to that noted in a Guide Book of United States Coins (the "Red Book"). We took note of monthly coinage production numbers and delivery dates as reported by the Coiner. In his final yearly report, the Coiner stated that the Charlotte Mint struck 12,886 pieces of the 1838 half eagle. The Red Book, in contrast, lists the mintage figure at 17,179, which is 4,293 more than the official Charlotte amount. The smaller mintage indicates this coin, which is (as of this writing) valued at \$5,850 in Fine condition by Coin World Trends, is rarer than previously thought. 2nd Note: A report of Coinage for December 4th, 1837 (no coinage this month) until December 31st, 1838 is

on page 259-260 of Entry 11, 1838. 3rd note: Page 126 of this Entry has mintages (by month) for 1838. (Red Book staff, please take note of the previous discrepancy)



1838 C Half Eagle (mintage incorrect) Picture courtesy of Heritage Auctions

Report of Coinage at the Charlotte Branch Mint from December 1837 to December 1838.

<i>Date of Delivery to Treasury</i>	<i>Denominations</i>	<i>Value</i>	
	<i>1/4 Eagle 1/2 Eagle</i>	<i>Dolls.</i>	<i>Cts.</i>
<i>In May</i>	<i>4,697</i>	<i>23,495</i>	
<i>" June</i>	<i>1,700</i>	<i>8,500</i>	
<i>" July</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>5,250</i>	
<i>" Sept.</i>	<i>3,500</i>	<i>4,440</i>	<i>30,950</i>
<i>" October</i>	<i>2,020</i>	<i>10,100</i>	
<i>" November</i>	<i>2,240</i>	<i>5,600</i>	
<i>" December</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>100</i>	
<i>At each delivery, Assay Pieces were reserved</i>			
<i>Amounting in all to</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>170</i>
	<i>7,894</i>	<i>12,886</i>	<i>84,165</i>

Actual Year mintage of 12,886 pieces of the 1838 C half eagle

making your Report to the President to say that this Branch
has to this date received about 6.990 Ozs of Gold equal in
value to about \$130.050, and we have coined of this

7.840 pieces of 2.50 =	\$19.600
12.859 " " 5.00	64.295
	<u>\$83.895.</u>

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt

Mo. H. Wheeler
Superintendent

G. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia

This letter from Wheeler emphasizes 1838 C half eagle mintage with 27 pieces of assay coin left off of the total

The Year of 1839

(A time of officer conflict – lasting much of the year)

January 9th, 1839 – Patterson to Wheeler – Without delay, send the reserve pieces for the Annual Assay. Send the parcels on different days.

January 10th, - Patterson to Woodward – sending dies to you to send to Charlotte and Dahlonga (no mention of what dies). Second letter of same date, to Wheeler that the dies are 2 heads of ¼ eagle, and the old dies of the reverse can still be used from previous year.

January 10th, - A letter to Patterson from 2 mint employees, Alexander Robertson and Edward Terres. In complaint from these workmen of the Superintendent insisting of the strict observance of his rules. An occurrence between Wheeler and these two at least happened on January 5th, and these two workmen are also speaking on behalf of the other workmen. The occurrence was quite unpleasant when the Superintendent called us to his office and told us that our wages have been raised 25 cents per day, but added that he had taken the responsibility. Further said there have been complaints that the business has not gone on as it should, that's why we have made new regulations. He said we should be governed by these regulations, and we countered that these were the same as Philadelphia, but we have a different situation here. We reiterated that the slowing of business was not our fault, and because the officers of the mint were also present, we asked them to confirm our good work. Wheeler insisted that we abide by them or else we would be discharged. The expression of which implied that we were not doing our duty. We felt that he was accusing us for the delays. We made the following objections – 1. It was easier to work in Philadelphia than here for 10 hours. Workmen have little or no time to acquire sustenance for themselves and family. All is at hand in Philadelphia while here with no market to go to and the provisions mostly go to the inhabitants that keep servants. The workmen need to acquire provisions that are more easily available in Philadelphia. The Superintendent continued to stress his new rules, therefore in consequence of the threat by the Superintendent we considered ourselves discharged and went home. On Monday following, we were sent for where Dr. Gibbon and Mr. Bolton told us that what the Superintendent did was very wrong and making his rash threats and thought the rules should be modified – and done by them and agreeable to us – and after 2 idle days we went back to work. We ask you to let us know whether after bringing our family's here, whether we can be discharged without a moment's warning without any fault on our part or not.

January 15th, - Wheeler Patterson – Sent Gibbon requests for stone ware jars and sand crucibles. Please order from Baltimore the articles ordered to be made on the 18th of August – that is the two largest jars for the reduction of silver and stone ware. It seems that Gibbon is trying to “throw off the blame” for the extraordinary delays at this mint. As far as I am concerned, I have urged the Doctor to make requisitions for articles, and have myself timely submitted the requisitions. Roof is now complete, well is deep and not failing – and cannot add anything else necessary for our operations. Except progress is the problem where I have in my vault \$43,502.20 in bullion. To your experience and judgment why his delay? If I am to blame, or I can remedy it, can you communicate it frankly to me? If they are to blame, and my regulations I do not know. I beg that you remind the workers of their duty, or if there is a defect in this mint’s organization – hope you can have it corrected. You will see by my report that no coin or bullion is in the hands of the Coiner. (Having settled his accounts for the year) Can you examine his accounts for correctness? **Lastly, the Coiner asks for his dies for the year.**

January 17th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Problems with the Assay reports for Dr. Gibbon. Said that part of the report was done in pencil (ink required by your order). And, Gibbon also omitted other essentials. Gibbon wrote to you, as I did, and you repeated the uniform practice of the mint. No assay report has been made since 28 December and some reports handed in today contained only the fineness, without other requisites as directed by you and required by me. I refused to receive his report partly because of the great necessity of care and precision to avoid all errors, especially in the calculations of value. Gibbon sent them back, and said that you said the missing amount was immaterial who made the calculations first. I am annoyed by this course since now your directions are impracticable.

January 17th, - Patterson to Wheeler – the news of your well is satisfactory, and your pump has been hastened to send to you. Your bill on additional hands is again before the Senate.

January 20th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Forwarding thru Mr. Bussiere the assay pieces reserved – value \$170. If my last postscript of a previous letter was unpleasant, but from the course that the Assayer pursues, and seems determined to pursue, could you give this matter attention. I have complied with your order of January 10th and April 5, 1838. My requesting of the Assayer to comply has met with his refusal to comply – against your directions. His reports have no calculations of weight and value. Dr. Gibbon says he always makes the calculations – but does not put them down in the report – even in pencil. He also advised you that I could not make them. I said that, if “this were true, that I could not, from incapacity make the calculations, it is of more importance that he should make them. In the absence of a clerk last summer, I detected some important mistakes in his calculations. I only mention this because he has mentioned this to me.”

Every aid in my power is afforded him – he has added to his force – two of the Coiner's men, 2 carpenters, and a man to supply coal to the furnaces and water to the boiler. Mr. Bussiere has done a great job on the roof – water tight and attractive.

January 21, - Bussier to Patterson – a letter to notify Patterson that things are not going well at Charlotte with the officers on how they conduct their business and also he feels that the workmen are trampled upon. Feels that Patterson should step in ASAP, because the workmen do not know what to think. This letter will be kept from the public and allow you to do what you will.

January 30th, - Patterson to Wheeler- Have received thru Bussiere the **assay pieces consisting of 26 1/2 eagles, and 14 1/4 eagles – 40 pieces - \$165 total.** (This total must be for representatives of the entire coinage of 1838, and is \$5 less than Wheeler reported as sent.

January 30th, - Wheeler to Patterson – **letter received of yours dated the 17th on transmission of 2 heads of quarter eagle dies. Unfortunately, they were sent to Charleston, South Carolina, and were delayed getting here.** Enclosed is an ingot piece for your exam as the gold is now being coined from it, and await your approval to distribute. I await anxiously, your response to my Assayer problem. Complaints are being received on the delays of making assays and coinage here. When I investigate, my wishes are disregarded, while I am exposed to public censure. I do what I can to alleviate this situation. Yesterday we received 13 carboys of acid, sent on December 8th. Hoping to have the bullion in my safe coined soon, and find no reason depositors would have to wait more than 24 hours for payments. If the Assayer does his duty, it can be done.

January 31st, - Patterson to Wheeler – regret that you have a problem with Gibbon, and thought settled – but consider it trifling. It is uniformly what you suppose, that report of the Assayer is sent to the Treasurer completed, so as to avoid the necessity of its being returned, and this is the convenient course, and my opinion that this should be followed. It is immaterial to the Assayer whether he makes his calculations of value first or second, but sending of his report background and forward a sufficient reason why he should make these estimates first. This view of the matter, with my statement of the uniform practice, will convince Gibbon of the propriety of yielding his times to your wishes. Also, I have been told that your new men have nothing to do. Why should the lack of pots delay operations. I realize that some of your difficulty arises from the lower quality of gold received at your mint. Also, Gibbon is spending a lot of time on his wastage results because of these problems, but since Dahlonaga is doing fine in that category, less effort in achieving so close to legal limits is not that necessary. (underlined words are Patterson's)

January 31st, Bolton to Wheeler – Machinery and all in good working order. **No coinage this month.** Received a lot of ingots on January 29th and have them under way for coining.

February 6th, - Woodward to Patterson – received from the House a clarification of the added expense for machinery and more workmen at Charlotte, so I may answer the representatives.

February 9th, - Patterson to Woodward – received your need for confirmation of House Bill for Charlotte on machinery, added workmen, and whether Charlotte can coin small coin – their cost. The State Legislation of North Carolina supports this Bill. Also said if the Bill passes for small coins, the Charlotte Mint can strike half dimes and dimes. However, the Assay Department is not supplied with apparatus for the assay of silver, or with suitable molds for the ingots. The Assayer is also instructed for silver. The whole expenditures, on these accounts, will not exceed \$1,000. As to added workmen, the mint has asked for more hands from the beginning, and if silver coin is authorized more hands will be necessary. 2 additional hands and the new operations if approved would not be less than \$1,500.

February 12th, - Patterson to Wheeler – assay piece you sent is at 892 1/2 and is approved for further coinage. Assay Commission report says that the melting was at standard, but weight was just above standard, but nonetheless acceptable for your gold coinage. **(P.S. - in a previous statement, I had said that a ½ eagle was missing from your assay pieces sent – it was found by the Commission and used in the assay.**

February 13th, - Wheeler to Patterson – received the reason for the missing – and now found, \$5 piece. Your letter of the 13th, expressed regret that the misunderstanding between me and Dr. Gibbon is renewed on a point which you thought was long settled. Thought it was settled that the Treasurer gets it complete. So,, all communication with me should make it clear that the general business of the Branches shall be under your control and you shall establish the regulations. The point was “trifling” to me, but I do not wish to be blamed for insisting on it. I will contact Dr. Gibbon on this matter shortly, and hope he will follow thru. Have not received assay reports since December 28th, but have required them weekly. If he needs help, Bolton has offered to assist. Word is that at Dahlonega that a depositor brings his bullion in and the next day receives payment – this should apply to all. **Need dies for this year – you sent no reverse dies for the ¼ eagle. Please send one reverse die for the ¼ eagle and 2 reverses for the ½ eagle as those are now cracked and unfit for use.**

February 23rd, - Denning (Director's Clerk) to Wheeler – Your iron pump and wrought iron pipe along with lead pipe brass cocks shipped this day. Stoneware shipped

as well on the 15th. Basins of nitrate of silver to be shipped in 3 to 4 weeks. Stone separating jars are out of date, suggest sending glass ones – shall we do so? Sending a sand crucible to you as well for yours will probably be exhausted by the time it arrives.

February 23rd, - Patterson to Woodbury – Wheller's (?) complaints against Mr. Strange are against someone of who is a gentleman of great morals. I believe him to be competent in his duties. A bountiful disposition led him to announce prematurely that his mint was in full operation and ready to make prompt payments. His display of importance and authority has given his fellow workers offense. It is certainly evident that delays have been made for deposits, but unjust to blame Wheeler. Delays always occurred with the Assayer. Wheeler has had several disputes with his Assayer and have been referred to me – and my decision is that Wheeler is in the right. I cannot agree with the evils mentioned by Mr. Strange at the Charlotte Mint. Mr. Bissell (J. Humphrey Bissell of the House of Representatives) has also complained about Wheeler but consider him to be conceited, arrogant, and ill-natured Mr. Bissell has a candidate to replace Wheeler. He is a bitter politician of the opposite party and may have a reason to not like Wheeler. One of our clerks showed me a letter from Bissell that shows his ignorance of mint matters. I will conclude that I am not satisfied with matters of officer troubles at both the Charlotte and New Orleans mints and this on so many trivial grounds. I will not fail to call on you, but right now I feel it unnecessary. (On February 26th, Woodbury answered with confidence in Patterson to have the expertise to handle the situations)

February 27th, - Patterson to Gibbon – Have been informed of the unhappy state of things at your mint, which I wrote to the Secretary. Wrote of the trivial matter and assert that the Superintendent of your mint has the final say and that is supported by the Secretary. There are no ill feelings toward you, but we insist that you not continue the unfriendly course with the Superintendent, and stop this interruption of operations. I do not write Colonel Wheeler on this occasion.

February 28th, - Bolton to Wheeler – **2,204 pieces of the ½ eagle struck this month (\$11,020). Request more dies that are needed ASAP – the reverse dies all unfit. Machinery and apparatus in good condition.**

March 2nd, - (Marked Private) Wheeler to Patterson – Mr. Bissell has made, in writing, complaints against me as Superintendent. I was not supplied with a copy but in essence it said that, “insisting upon a general want of fitness, and a higher grade of knowledge in the business of the institution.” Do not know what his motives are beyond not getting the appointment to this post himself. Wheeler here reiterates afterword what he has done to put a stamp on his fulfilling of his duties. Feel that my knowledge of operations is on par, and as far as handling delays are concerned, I cannot be fully

blamed when my Assayer has caused his problems effecting operations. I know that the President has demanded his removal, but that is a last resort. I write you this first private letter to inform you and how I challenge this investigation into my integrity. I hope that I have your support and that Dr. Gibbon will be more prompt in his assays and ingots. I do not complain of Gibbon's personal conduct to me, for if proper, I will right my own wrongs.

March 6th, - Gibbon to Patterson – said that on the 18th of January all the workmen at the mint were under his directions. Bolton, at my urgent request, had sent me his men to assist – I finished 26 assays on that day. Orders around the water tanks were taken by 2 computers – and as soon as the return assays were done, I noted the fineness and put it into my Assay report and sent then to the Treasurer (at this time, the Superintendent also had the Treasurer duty) for confirming calculations. Then continued with my other duties, and wrote in my books the calculations that night to compare with the Treasurer and find results. I thought this to expedite things without any desire to do anything that would be objectionable to you. Found upon inquiry that the Superintendent had directed to the Clerk not to proceed in the calculations and informed the depositors that no reports had been made to him. The Superintendent received this question whether these reports, as I sent them in, were legal reports. I considered them to be in consequence of your decision of the 3rd of September last – as with by the Act of Congress discriminating the duties of officer of the mint. As the letter was written after I had offered explanations upon this subject – it was immaterial whether I should first insert the standard value on the reports – or not. Gibbon went on to explain more in detail, but added that the Clerk's work on this matter is rechecked for any error. My calculations have always been made before those of the Treasurer to prevent delays. There is no reason why the operations of the mint have to be suspended or interrupted while such a question was in agitation. After your letter, I immediately acted as you desired. I have received from the Treasurer 3,349 ounces of gold bullion, and returned 2,623 ounces in standard ingots since January 1st. I was not aware of any representations had been made to the Government with regard to the misunderstandings between the Superintendent and myself. If there has been blame placed against me by the Superintendent then I wish to defend myself. I have not permitted our disagreements to effect doing my duties. "It appears, however, impossible that any cordial feelings should exist between us -and this state of things has arisen as much from his private, as from his official behavior."

March 6th, Gibbon to Wheeler – in reference to a letter sent from Patterson that, "I am told that there has been a great deal of time at your Mint when the men were not employed, and even complained of having nothing to do. Why then should the pounding or sounding (?) of the pots to be allowed to get behind hand?" I can truly answer that the workmen under my control have had no cause to complain of idleness since my arrival here, and they both disclaim any such expression! My workers had only little work at the

end of the year, and Coiner says that, “he has plenty of work for his crew, and has complained to me that I want too much help from his side of the house.” I have been quite busy in the separation of the silver which takes a whole day. It is a tedious process that exposes me to further delay. I would prefer the use of stone jars, a larger amount could be processed instead of using bottles. The bottles have too many accidents and have never broken a jar over the furnace. More than one cask of sand crucibles will be necessary to handle supply and not hinder operations. There is a bad quality of charcoal that you ordered – has caused a flux upon the air holes – interrupts the passage of air from below.

March 9th, Patterson to Wheeler – received assay pieces – the testing for fineness is as follows. The first is unacceptable. The second is beyond the limit within which it is desirable always to keep – yet may be received within legal limits. Do not think it advisable to discontinue the practice of verifying your ingots. As to the delay in issuance of coins for the forthright required to send the assay pieces – and received the reports – should not be an inconvenience as you have a fund of \$30,000 for paying the depositors promptly. The Bill that you submitted to the House did not pass that body, so no additional employees. Possibly the proposed silver striking at your mint has delayed the Bill. This question may rest with the next Congress.

March 13th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Iron pump, Iron pipe, etc. have arrived. Dr. Gibbon asks for stone separating jars versus glass – as suggested by your Mr. Peale.

March 13th, - Patterson to Wheeler – received your letter of the 2nd about the complaints made against you by Mr. Bissell. The letter from Bissell made its rounds and came to me for an opinion – which was given and in your defense. My response was sent to the President and gave me satisfaction. You may be at ease in this matter.

March 14th, - Patterson to Wheeler – the new half eagle dies will be ready in 10 days.

March 15th, - Patterson to Gibbon – grateful to read from your letter the zeal and efficiency you have in the operations of your department. And also pleased with Coiner Bolton in showing the spirit of a faithful officer in giving his men to assist you. As to omitting certain calculations, your reasons must have been strong, and would have been satisfactory to the Superintendent – which means a proper understanding between you. Would rather in every case that you follow established regulations. “The representations which led to the necessity of mentioning the fact of a misunderstanding at your Mint was made by Mr. Bissell and not by Colonel Wheeler. No particulars were mentioned, nor were the officers named.”

March 22nd, - Patterson to Woodbury – mistakenly filed in Dahlonega records, - 2 pair of half eagle dies sent (new design?).

March 25th, - Patterson to Wheeler – melt #4 was processed at 898 ½ by Eckfeldt – within legal limits.

March 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – His report of coinage for the month of March is 1,950 half eagles (\$9,750). This amount not reported in subsequent reports of coinage of the 1839 half eagle.

March 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – 2,204 pieces of the half eagle struck on February 19th, and 5,892 quarter eagles struck on March 16th.

April 1st, - Wheeler to Patterson – I am much gratified at the results of our operations for this past month. We have no deposits unassayed and coin is paid promptly to depositors without delay.

April 3rd, - Gibbon to Wheeler – enclosed is the deposits received for the month of March, 1,890 686/1000 ounces of gold bullion were delivered and 1,963 ounces of ingots for coin have been returned to the Treasurer. Within the last 3 months have been able to provide a large amount of ingots then during 6 months of the preceding year – more complete apparatus in the chemical departments and more ample supply of material. He went also to note about wastage, silver separated from gold, etc., and writes his calculations for the period.

April 4th, - Wheeler to Patterson – worried at first about Mr. Bissell's complaints and now that I have your support in the matter and that Bissell's complaints had no basis. Thus, the President supports me, and so I am now more at ease.

April 5th, - Wheeler to Patterson – enclosed our reports for the month last and you will see that Dr. Gibbon, with his separation of the silver from the gold, has paid depositors in silver coin provided by your mint for that purpose. To repeat of my December 31st, 1838 letter, I have increased the pay of the workmen 25 cents Per Diem. One foreman now at \$3 Per Diem (\$936/year) and 4 men at \$2.25/day at \$702/year.

April 9th, - Patterson to Wheeler – 12 carboys of acid headed your way and Mr. Eckfeldt has assayed your melt #5 at 898 5/8.

April 15th, - Wheeler to Patterson – we are coining today, but regret to say with dies that are unfit for use. The reverse die of the half eagle is cracked and the head of last year's date. (underline is ours to emphasize striking of 1838 dated half

eagles struck in 1839) We put off coining for a fortnight on this account and are compelled to coin new, as we need the coin, as soon as the verification arrives. (This letter, an important one for correct mintage totals for the year of 1838 and 1839, and is in Entry 11, 1838, pages 304 and 305) (Note: there is no response from Patterson on this event in the records)

April 15th, - Patterson to Wheeler – your reports have been incomplete for January and February. You say a total of 2,004 half eagles = (\$11,020). Is this error in the number of pieces, or their values?

April 23rd, - Wheeler to Patterson – reason for the incompleteness for Jan and February is that at the time of making the reports, the deposits had not been reported by the Assayer. I now send a complete report for the quarter ending in March. The correct number for the half eagles struck in February should be 2,204 pieces and not 2,004.

April 29th, - Patterson to Wheeler – our new half eagle dies are completed, and sets shall be sent to you with the least possible delay. Your melt #6 examined and is at 898 ½.

April 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – reports that 2,084 pieces of the half eagle were struck this month amounting to \$10,420. (Note: To our records – this conflicts with amounts in other Charlotte records for the month of April 1839 – other records state that 4,028 pieces were struck for April)

May 1st, - Wheeler to Patterson – My reports are forwarded – there are no deposits unassayed, apparatus, and machinery in excellent order. Our pump arrival – working well. The mines are reporting most alluring prospects and one deposit of nearly \$20,000 is to be received this week.

May 3rd, - Patterson to Wheeler – two boxes of dies one of them a pair of the new half eagle dies and 1 box of quarter eagle (pair) being sent to you. (First indication of newly designed half eagle coin on the way to Charlotte.)

May 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – 4,868 quarter eagles struck in May (\$12,170). No half eagles coined.

May 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – Gibbon repeats that he “again that the supply of crucibles is exhausted.” Also enclosed an assay piece melt #7 weighing 170/1000 of an ounce – hope for verification from you.

June 3rd, - Patterson to Wheeler – besides other material shipped, 1 cask of round sand crucibles, 8 stone separating jars, and 6 stone basins. **Have you received 2 reverse quarter eagle dies, and 1 pair of half eagle dies, sent on the 3rd of May?**

June 7th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Eckfeldt reports Melt #7 to be 898 $\frac{3}{4}$. In the future, report the fineness ascertained by your mint.

June 17th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Have the verification of melt #7. Shall report on fineness from here from now on. Received your bill of shipments coming here. **Last – the dies arrived safe in due time.**

June 26th, - W. F. Strange (Charlotte Chief Clerk) to Patterson – Wheeler went to Catawba Springs (note: assume North Carolina) for the benefit of his health for a day or two. Melt #8 sent with a fineness of 900 here.

June 29th, - Bolton to Wheeler – Coined 1,172 pieces of the half eagle for June – value \$5,860. (Note: first striking of the new design half eagle)

June 30th, - Wheeler to Patterson – report of operations enclosed, except for M/R Assayer report. There appears to be from the state of bullion in the vaults, great delay in this department, which occurs chiefly as the M/R states in consequence of a want of hands. When I can send you his report, I shall submit my views on the matter and beg your attention to some remedy.

July 12th, - Wheeler to Patterson – a bit troubled on the cost of rollers from Mr. Sellers at \$123, which although not a competent judge, it seems large, but no comment except that I will have to husband my resources with great economy. The heavy expense of the deepening of the well, cost of pumping and fixtures, pay raise allowance, plus I am compelled to have 2 carpenters constantly employed, making the wooden carpet for the floor of the melting room, and fixtures for the Melter. “You will observe that my contingent fund will be run very close.” Also, I have \$14,037.81 due depositors and only have \$3,007.16 in coin. True, the Coiner has \$13,966.87 which will soon be coined, and with my \$3,007.16 will the depositors up until the 30th. The bullion should be worked down closer but there is an inadequacy of my workforce. Need a larger deposit of bullion than \$30,000. I know that without the law, you cannot increase my workforce, but is there a way I can shift workers to other departments at times. Or could we somehow increase the fund per chance of metal be allowed or recommended. Come you come here in the Fall so we may discuss this?

July 17th, - Wheeler to Patterson – enclosing assay slips of melts 9 & 10. 9 is 899.5, 10 is 900. Coiner wishes to employ a hand in his department since one has given

his notice that he leaves in a month. Wish to employ a good faithful man, a good blacksmith – offer is \$2 per day and pay expenses to this place. There has been no misunderstanding with Mr. Robertson (the current blacksmith) but he feels he can do better elsewhere. He has never been satisfied here, but is a good workman. Mr. Eckfeldt promised us last summer that he would assist with finding someone – can he still?

July 19th, - Patterson to Wheeler – I hear your complaints and would suggest for one that maybe the carpentry work is not as necessary right now – every outlay is too costly for you. Your officers should be aware that all the Branch Mints are under trial, and their continuance has to be justifiable to Congress. Mr. Seller's charge on the rollers may be high, but the quality is much better than what you had before. Have examined your bullion problem, and see that when the bullion is in the Coiner's hands it is trifling to get it into coin. It appears right now that you are 40-50 thousand dollars behind in your operations. This is too much, and the evil must be remedied by your own exertions within the mint. I cannot hold out the half hope of an increase in your government deposits, when the same application failed from Dahlonega. Asking Congress for anything for the Branches is dreadful. It is alright if hands from one department assists another for it happens here. I suggest you consult with your M/R and Coiner upon this point and you adopt with their consent some system of mutual aid.

July 24th, - Patterson to Wheeler – you assay sent have registered 898 7/8 for #9, and 899 5/8 for #10. Eckfeldt has asked Mr. Peale to assist in a recommendation for a workman for you. Will advise.

July 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – read your suggestions and have paid off one carpenter and in a few weeks the work should be done. **The Coiner shows a coinage of more than \$27,000 – a plus.**

July 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – 4,157 half eagles struck for July - \$20,785. In quarter eagles – 2,544 pieces - \$6,360. All total 6,701 pieces equal to \$27,145.

August 6th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – the Director's letter which you placed in my hands appears a reflection upon "Your Officers", in consequence of complaints made to him (which he considers just) with reference to expense of the carpenters and other extra hands. I am not aware of any complaint in my department, no extra labor has been called for me, and no expenses have been incurred in completing fixtures. Delays for want of carpenters and materials, you know have subjected me to serious inconveniences both in the Melting Room and Refinery. To answer the 40-50 thousand less operations behind – in order to regulate my divided operations, I have at the end of the month, and sometimes oftener, inquired how the Treasurer has funds to meet depositors. No depositor has been sent away without coin. The 40-50 thousand dollars is divided among

the officers – and does not prove the want of exertion upon those officers, when duties demand it. Mr. Bolton and I have allowed workers to work in both departments – though Bolton has less need for assistance than I. We have discussed this and it has worked. Some of our operations, his workmen are disinclined to aid, especially during the heat of summer – when we receive large deposits and require assistance. If I had 3 workmen, it would be easy for me to assist him occasionally – but I cannot overcome readily the want of experience between departments. We have succeeded fairly well, even with a small force, in supplying ingots – but have been pushed to the extreme of our ability, and no exertion on my part can more readily expedite. I must express regret, that while you concede to me in the most decided manner that I have not the means of advancing more rapidly, and that my workmen are incessantly occupied – and when it is acknowledged that your depositors do not suffer for want of coin – you permit an impression that we are still behind hand with our operations, and still require additional stimulus by reproof (?) to increase our exertions.

August 9th, - Wheeler to Patterson – report of the Assayer replies to parts of yours of the 19th, which is my duty indicated. I read to both the Assayer and Coiner my letter to you. My views do not reflect on any officer, although the Assayer tries to indicate himself. The Assayer says that no depositor leaves without coin, but isn't entirely true since the Girard Bank no longer exists and has had to rely on the Government bullion fund. The Treasurer has not the means of promptly paying the demands of more than \$3,000, and further the Coiner has no ingots for coinage. And, as I have no facilities now whatever but from the amount placed here by the Government “for the purchase of bullion for coinage”, and which is divided now between the different departments of labor in the mint, “Depositors will have to go away without their coin, unless the bullion is more rapidly converted into coin. I have presented the facts, and you can then see where defects exist, and where the blame should rest.

August 26th, - Wheeler to Patterson – you need not trouble yourself about employing a hand for this mint, as we can procure one here. If not, send immediately. The Coiner feels that right now his workmen are handling it.

August 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – have coined 2,600 pieces of the half eagle-\$13,300. (Other future reports say no ½ eagles coinage in August of 1839 -delivery report conflict?)

August 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – received from Treasurer 1230 400/1000 ounces of gold bullion and have returned 1220 170/1000 ounces in gold ingots for coin.

August 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – shall be absent for the next 2-3 weeks on private business to Washington City, at which place I shall be happy to hear from you, if it should be in my power to serve you.

September 4th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #11 sent to us – fineness 899 ½ – satisfactory. On the 23rd sent 12 carboys, on the 27th, 1 barrel oil, 10 bars of copper, cupels are being made. Glad to hear you have succeeded in finding a blacksmith – have failed to find one here. One prospect declined to say he wanted \$2.75 per day.

September 6th, - Strange to Patterson – enclosing an assay slip from melt #12 for ½ eagles -fineness of 899 weigh 120/1000 ounce. Ingots found from last bullion in the Treasurer's vault.

September 16th, - Patterson to Wheeler – report when you can send and estimate for your expenditures for 1840. Assay slip #12 is confirmed at 899 ¼ fineness and 58 grains in weight.

September 18th, - Strange to Patterson – sent assay melt #13 of gold ingots – 899.5 – weighing 710/1000 of an ounce. And on the 23rd, Patterson wrote back and said melt #13 was satisfactory.

September 30th, - Wheeler to Patterson – deposits for coinage down because of the extreme dryness of the season, and the failure of water for mining purposes. Cupels and crucibles much needed, and need 12 carboys of nitric acid – for 10 of the supply shipped on the 23rd of August was lost at sea in a storm. You ask for an estimate of expenses for 1840, but if you recall, the deepening of the well, the pump, carpenter's wages, have edged by appropriations almost to their limit. Hopefully, we can have an increase of same.

September 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 2,464 ½ eagles - \$12,320 and 1,520 ¼ eagles -\$3,800. Total 3,984 pieces - \$16,120.

October – letters both to and fro pertained to accounting material of but little interest – and apparently there were no problems this month.

November 1st – Wheeler to Patterson – Coiner's report shows that he executed no coinage during October, owing to the fact that he had not received any ingots for coinage. Coiner also suggests the need for dies for 1840.

November 6th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Melt #14 and 15 – fineness here 900, weight of both 280/1000.

November 8th, - Wheeler to Patterson – the amount of bullion received is more encouraging and prospects are good. Our coinage to this point will reach \$150,000. No carpenter is currently employed and none for the feasible future for the need of economy.

November 14th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Eckfeldt reports melt #14 and 15 at 899 ½ – of course quite satisfactory.

November 22nd, - Wheeler to Patterson – melt #16 – fineness of 898 5/10, weight 130/1000 of ounces.

November 22nd, Wheeler to Patterson – Assayer reports has stock of cupels nearly exhausted – and as early as August requisition was made for 1000 cupels, and again repeated – only made is through you – please expedite. Mr. Dunning sent 12 carboys of Aqua Fortes, oil of copper, and cupels were being made. Since that, have received 12 carboys of Aqua Fortes, (10 of the shipment lost at sea) and since then I have had no advice. “Wouldn’t not be better that you advise me whenever a shipment is made.” We have been several times out of crucibles, and but for borrowing, and the chance supplies, we must have stopped receiving deposits.

November 27th, - Wheeler to Patterson – much detail on accountability and that he would follow Patterson’s directives concerning same. This letter goes at length and detail, to establish correct accountability about funds, etc.

November 30th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #16 is 898 5/10 same as Gibbon reports – satisfactory. A box of cupels have been sent on the 4th. Your order for round sand crucibles was given to the importers, but this takes time- since the wait he sent you a small cask to meet your immediate need. Your suggestion to inform you of shipment will be attended to.

November 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 3,507 pieces of the half eagle -\$17,535 and 3,310 quarter eagles - \$8,275 struck in November. P. S. the amount of half eagles as reported above has been delivered to the Treasurer – the amount of quarter eagles remain in my vault ready for delivery as soon as the verification of the last melt of ingots arrives.

December 3rd, - Gibbon to Wheeler – all deposits received have been assayed. Some leaks in the roof and some from the pipes that should be repaired, as they will cause the plaster to fall and maybe injurious to the separating room with bottles of acids.

December 3rd, - Patterson to Wheeler – I send a copy of the estimate, presented to the Department, the expenses for your mint for 1840. It is less than your own by \$3,000 – the reduction being in your estimate for wastage and contingent expenses, which appear to us, after full exam, to be too great. Our experience here, and at Dahlonega, show that the wastage in gold is mainly nominal, where great care is taken, and your contingencies will be much reduced. You have said, the carpenters, who stayed a long time, their work is completed and hope that other jobbing will be avoided. Even now, your estimate exceeds that of Dahlonega. If however you can give sufficient reasons for increasing your estimate, you can be aware that it is not too late.

December 11th, - Wheeler to Patterson – the cupels and crucibles sent on the 4th were received yesterday, which is the most expeditious arrival that we have ever had. This season of the year best for transportation – this arrival most opportune. Your estimate is less than mine, I shall endeavor to make it answer shall Congress pass it. Dr. Gibbon reports that his wastage will be much reduced. The appropriation for this year had to bear many heavy expenditures not estimated in that appropriation. I am apprehensive in consequence that the appropriation of 1840 will have to take some of these expenses, but of this I shall be certain when your account is received. Covered crucibles are preferable, (we got round ones) because there are more in a next which are useful, and the workmen like them better for dippers. Sending melt #17 – here 899 fineness.

December 18th, Wheeler to Patterson – assayer needs a new assay balance. Enclose melt #18 at 900 fineness.

December 20th, - Patterson to Wheeler – glad to hear that you will be disposed to confine your expenditures for the coming year to the reduced estimate. Eckfeldt reports 899 for melt #17 – confirms with Gibbon.

December 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – machinery and apparatus in good working order. **Statement below is for delivery and coinage. (Copy of this page made of this report Entry 11, 1838, page 772)**

December 31st, - Patterson to Wheeler – Eckfeldt confirms melt #18 at 899. I can offer no suggestion for the temporary use of your bullion fund, if your appropriation were not exhausted, it would be in the power of the Secretary to transfer a portion of this fund to your ordinary expense, but as the matter stands, he cannot do so. Maybe your Bank will make advances, and your creditors consent to receive such money as the Bank will promise you.



1838 C Quarter Eagle Courtesy of Heritage Auctions

Note: Entry 11, 1838, page 772 shows the breakdown of coinage for the year of 1839 and the Charlotte Mint records state that there were 23,467 pieces of the half eagle struck for that year of 1839. This mintage figure conflicts with the Red Book figure of 17,205 pieces, which leaves a difference of 6,262 pieces. Again, Red Book staff please take notice.

Coiners Office
U. S. B. Mint
Charlotte N. C. Dec. 31st 1839

Sir

In compliance with the usages of this Branch of the U. S. Mint I have the honor of reporting to you that the Machinery & Apparatus in my Department are in good working order — Also the statement below will show the number & kinds of Coin executed and Delivered to the Treasurer in each Month during the Year 1839

When Delivered	1/2 Ea.	1/4 Ea.	Dob.	Ets.
January				
February 2.		2204	11,020 00	
March 16.	5892		14,730 00	
April 28 16.		4023	20,140 00	
May 16.	4868		12,170 00	
June 17.		1172	5,860 00	
July 10 & 30.	2544	4157	27,145 00	
Aug.				
Sept. 11 & 24.		5168	25,840 00	
Oct. 7.	1533		3,832 50	
Nov. 20 & 21.		3507	17,535 00	
Dec. 9. 30 & 31	3336	3231	24,495 00	
	13173	23467	162,767 50	

1750
 2084
 4534
 4023
 4868
 1172
 2544
 21660
 21660
 21660
 5150

C.

Gold Bullion received for Coinage and the
Coinage from 1st Jan 1839 to 31st Dec. 1839 inclusive
 at the Branch of U.S. Mint at Charlotte N.C.

Bullion			Coinage				Date of Reception by Treas ^r .
month	Oz	dec.	Value Dollars & cts.	$\frac{1}{2}$ Ea.	$\frac{1}{4}$ Ea.	Value Dollars & cts.	
January	319	694	5,947.48				
February	627	770	11,679.14	2,204		11,020	19 th Feb.
March	467	390	8,695.24		5,892	14,780	16 th March
April	184	987	3,441.38	1,944		9,720	{ 2 April 16. do.
May	1,063	637	19,787.94	2,084		10,420	
June	468	370	8,713.38	1,172	4,868	12,170	16 th May
July	894	373	16,638.98	2,545	2,544	27,145	{ 10 th July 30. do.
August	697	961	12,984.85	1,612			
Sept.	131	662	2,449.34	2,704		13,520	{ 11 th Sept. 24. do.
Oct.	1,003	682	18,672.46	2,464		12,320	
Nov.	451	378	8,397.33		1,533	3,832.50	7 th Oct.
Dec.	6,310	984	117,407.52	3,507	3,336	17,535	{ 21 st Nov. 9. Dec.
				2,160		8,340	
				1,071		10,800	30 do.
						5,355	31 do.
			23,467.18.173				Total
			182,767.50				

1839 total coinage with total bullion for same

B

Coiner's Office
U. S. Mint

Charlotte N C 30th March 39

Sir

In compliance with the usage of this Branch
of the United States Mint I have the honor of reporting
to you the amounts and kinds of Coins executed
during this Month to be in

Quarter Eagles	5,892 pieces equal to	14,730.
Half do	1,950	<u>9,750</u>
		24,480.

The machinery Apparatus &c are in good
working order

(Yours very respectfully
(signed) Geo R Bolton
Coiner

John H Wheeler, Esq
Sup^{nt}

This letter shows the actual start of Liberty Half Eagle coinage

GENERAL REGULATIONS

FOR THE WORKMEN OF THE BRANCH MINT AT CHARLOTTE.

1st. The day's work at the Mint shall, throughout the year, commence at seven o'clock in the morning, and continue until five o'clock in the afternoon.

2. During the working hours, none of the men can leave the Mint without permission from their officers. A moderate time will be allowed them for eating their meals, which must be brought to the building.

3d. It shall be at the option of the officers concerned, to permit or re-

quire work of the men before or after the prescribed hours; but for all such over-work, extra pay shall be allowed at the rate of one-tenth of a day's wages for every hour, and for all absences, deductions shall be made at the same rate.

4th. The only holidays at the Mint are Christmas-day, New Year's-day, the Fourth of July, and the afternoon (from two o'clock) of Saturdays, and from two o'clock of the day of Election.

January 1, 1839.

JOHN H. WHEELER,

Superintendent of the Mint.

Regulations that employees complained about from Wheeler

The Year of 1840

(Mining output studies, and Bechtler coinage)

January 8th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Bullion and Coinage executed at this mint for the month ending December 31st, 1839. Also, “machinery and apparatus are in fine working order – the stock of materials is sufficient for some months to come, and we commence a New Year under the most auspicious circumstances.

Note: attached to this letter is a full year report of bullion and coinage (by month as well and printed on previous page of this Treatise) for the whole year of 1839. Quarter Eagle totals for both Charlotte and the Red Book reports match.

January 10th, - John H. Gibbon to Wheeler – desire 2000 ounces of fine silver should remain to assist in process, which at this mint, have frequently subjected us to delays. Still some silver remaining in acid in the refinery besides that while held in the sweeps.

January 11th, - Wheeler to Patterson – reported that **bullion received was \$126,836.40, and the coinage totaled \$162,767.50, by which you can perceive our coinage exceeds our receipt of bullion.** Also demonstrated that we have been at our ports and not idle during the year. He repeated the need for more silver bullion for the Assayer, and asked for an additional sum of \$1,000. But he wrote that only you (Patterson) can correct this situation of not enough silver bullion for us to use, and asks, “isn’t this situation prudent to our needs.?” Shall I make a requisition to the Secretary of the Treasury as well? (Note: Wheeler seems desperate here)

January 22nd, - Wheeler to Patterson – in receipt of request of which the annual product of the gold mines of this region. Will comply.

Note: gold reserved for assay report sent for the year 1839 sent which gives the total of bullion and coin. (Entry 11, 1840, Charlotte box, page 12)

February 4th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – sends a request for supplies for his department.

February 4th, - Wheeler to Patterson – reports no coinage in January of 1840 – no ingots being transferred to the Coiner. Received 2 pair of ½ eagle dies for 1840.

Defaced 4 pairs of ¼ eagle dies and 3 pair of ½ eagle dies, which were dated 1838 and 1839 – which are all the dies in the mint.

February 5th, - Patterson to Wheeler – sent 2 pairs of ¼ eagle dies for 1840.

February 12th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Assay Commission found that the coins from your mint for assay were within tolerance and acceptable.

February 29th, - John R. Bolton to Wheeler – reported February coinage as 1,972 pieces of the half eagle – total \$9,860.

March 4th, - Wheeler to Patterson – said that he had made a detailed report to the Secretary of the annual production of the gold mines of the section from the time of discovery, but felt that it lacks completeness because of some unreliable sources. 1. The coinage of the mints of the U. S. from the mines has been nearly \$3,000,000. 2. The coinage does not give the total products of the mines, for business reasons set forth. 3. The annual amount produced by the mines is \$400,000 from when it was founded. (Coined at the Charlotte Mint in 1839 – \$162,767.50, at Philadelphia – \$50,000, at Bechtler's establishment – \$150,000. Coined at U. S. mints - \$3,000,000, Bechtler's books say \$3,625,000 at his establishment, sold to manufacturers, shipped to Europe, and etc. - \$3,375,000. Total is \$10,000,000.

In this same letter, he announced that the roof is in a leaky state – sent two workmen on it and have been with them most of the day himself. Said that he has not yet received the appropriation to pay his workers, had to pay them from other sources. Can we get Congress to speed up the appropriation for salaries?

March 12th, - Patterson to Woodbury – said that he was confident of Wheeler's report on coinage and production of gold – sent his own estimates. 1. Wheeler said that \$162,767.50 coined at Charlotte in 1839, when he should have given the amount deposited for coinage during that time, which is but \$126,836. The balance of this should have been said 1838. 2. His estimate of Bechtler's production of \$3,625,000 astonished him greatly because he received a letter from Mr. Bechtler that says, "since the Mint at Charlotte has gone into operation his establishment has so lost on the former custom that it will barely justify continuation." If there had been this amount, Patterson asked, what has become of them. Bechtler and Reed's coins would pass current of value, but gold, in the form of bullion or coin, form no part of the currency of the country – the coins cannot be found there and either melted or sent to Europe – or maybe counted twice. The amounts seem to have been chosen with the view of making of the round sum of \$400,000 for the total production. The estimate of \$337,232.50 for the annual amount sold to ---?---- factors an exported, does not seem to be extravagant, but I must call upon you to be observant, that, at this rate, it would take more than ninety years to make up

the corresponding items in the estimate of total products, the amount so sold to manufacturers, shipped to Europe and co. being there set down at \$3,375,000.

March 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – machinery and apparatus in his department in good order.

April 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – coining struck during April is half eagle – 2,210 pieces equal to \$11,050.

May 14th, - Wheeler to Patterson – received 19 carboys of acid and also received on February 15th, 2 pair of quarter eagle dies.

May 20th, - Wheeler to Patterson – M/R complains of the black lead mufflers that were sent to this mint – with the state of the furnaces as such that the assays progress very slowly. Request the shipment of 12 German black lead mufflers. M/R Gibbon reported on May 19th, that the mufflers are of bad quality, splitting repeatedly despite our care.

May 28th, - Patterson to Wheeler – we will be sending the mufflers suggested with some suggested operations of same from Mr. Eckfeldt. Sending to Gibbon from our mint, as we have long since abandoned the use of such mufflers, and sold our large assay furnace as old iron.

May 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 2,560 half eagles delivered (\$12,800). Machinery and apparatus in good order.

June 4th, - Wheeler to Patterson – reported the proceedings of this Mint for the month of May, but besides deposits, I do not have the reports from the Assayer and Coiner. But have letter of May 30th, in from the Coiner.

June 11th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Assayer report confirms my report of what bullion he has on hand. Also, he requires a roll of sheet lead to renew the lining of the reducing jars – need ASAP. All deposits have been assayed.

June 15th, - Patterson to Wheeler -Melt #14 confirmed by Eckfeldt at 901 and satisfactory.

June 30th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – received 598,045 ounces of gold bullion and transferred 826,330 ounces of ingots for coinage. All deposits for the month have been assayed. A Hydrometer for acid has been broken, please send 2 more in case of an accident.

June 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 3,530 quarter eagles struck (\$8,825) for the month.

July 6th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Gibbon asked for sheet lead for the reducing jars, but the proper method is to join the seams by melting the lead itself. However, doubtful if this can be done in Charlotte – so we are sending you wooden tubs properly lined. Our mint has a preference for them.

July 8th, - Wheeler to Patterson – he recently visited the gold region of Burke, and brought to light the evils resulting from the laws allowing Mr. Bechtler manufacturing coin. Many miners told him that they do not bring their gold to the mint because Bechtler gave them a higher value for it. This answers for circulation but it does not bode well for our mint when the currency from him is less valuable than it purports to be, verified by our assays here of his coin giving less by our assays. This may not contravene the Act of 1825 (approved March 3rd) but it is contrary to the spirit of the Act – giving false tokens. The coinage of Bechtler has decreased because of our mint, but since it is under no legal restraint it should be abolished. Have thought to bring this up to the U. S. District Attorney of this State. Knowing that one member of Congress has given me severe remarks recently, I assume that the statements were in bad feeling, much perverted and positively false. My outlays were of no personal benefit and should continue to spend just as little as will comfort the necessity and actual operations of this mint.

July 16th, - Patterson to Wheeler – several supplies sent. Your melt #15 garnered 898.5 – in compliance. When General Wall introduced in the Senate an Act to prevent counterfeiting of foreign coins, I wrote to him to call attention to the evil of private coinage- now unrestrained by law, and stressed Bechtler coinage. Have not heard any action on my letter.

July 30th, - Gibbon to Patterson – said that with his limited force that he hopes to perform all the duties of Assaying, Refining, and collecting the sweeps at this mint – would be impossible for me to use as much expedition as I now do, if deprived of the occasional (unreadable?) derived from the large English furnaces. To heat our furnaces, we employ charcoal which here costs 5 cents per bushel. It is sometimes extremely difficult to heat the small French furnace with this coal. Tried to get pine knot coal from a distance but not adapted to our purpose. I urge the retention of the English furnace because it enables me to keep up with the assay of deposits made from other businesses. Mr. Irwin (melter) is a good workman, but his hands are too unsteady, from his heavy occupations – not prompt or active enough to be assistant in assaying, nor safe, among the acids in the Refinery. The division of the workmen here is not well adapted to the

labors required in the several apartments. The Coiner's men are incompetent in my rooms, caught occasionally to help carry off the ingot moulds, or to pound up the sweeps. I have had severe headaches which has prevented from answering sooner.

July 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – 1,980 half eagles delivered (\$9,900) – same coined 1,980 pieces.

July 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – all deposits this month have been assayed. The cupels which we ordered at the beginning of the year should now be forwarded, as we may again be in the same predicament we were last year – without any.

August 1st, - Wheeler to Patterson – a P. S. in this letter after a synopsis of previous reports says that Wheeler does not recall, or see, invoices for the cupels for Gibbon. The cupels sent now to Charleston would reach us in 3 months since no wagons go the Charleston in the summer, and the low state of the water prevents steamers and small boats from coming to Charleston. I expect to visit your place for a few days early part of next month, may be best to have the cupels boxed and marked and I can bring them with me.

August 10th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #6 at 899 from you – checked by Mr. Dubois – satisfactory. Gratified that your deposits have increased. Your order for cupels was not ignored, but thus far, Mr. Hue has been unable to make them. He will work hard to get them ready.

August 26th, - Wheeler to Patterson – Melt #7 fineness here 900 – sent to you. Same date – Patterson to Wheeler – Eckfeldt reported same at 899.8 – quite satisfactory.

August 26th, Patterson to Wheeler – received your note of attacks upon you from Congress. You have every right to plant trees, etc. to make your grounds more attractive. I support you on this. But do modestly and continually so that a search of expenditures will not be questioned. One point though – you are accused of having furnished your private apartments at the public cost, and this was certainly never intended or authorized. Some expressions in your defense seem to show that there is foundation for the attack upon you, though not to the extent assumed.

August 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 1,952 half eagles - (\$9,760) – which have been delivered to the Treasurer. In quarter eagles – 3,390 pieces (#8,475) which are ready for delivery on the receipt of the verification (fineness and weight of the last melt) from the Mother Mint.

September 1st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – last month received 859 ounces of gold bullion – delivered 748 60/100 ounces of ingots for coinage. All deposits for August assayed, but the need for cupels imperative so that we may continue assays thru the month. We are now using broken and refuse cupels, and it will be impossible to receive any supplies by way of Charleston at this season of the year.

September 9th, Patterson to Strange (in place of Wheeler) – assay melt #8 assayed by Eckfeldt at 898.5. Report that it varies much from standard, but within legal limit. Colonel Wheeler is here in Philadelphia and expects to return in 4-5 days.

September 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 1,820 piece of the half eagle coined - (\$9,100)

October 1st, - Strange to Patterson – sends month reports but adds that we are entirely out of cupels, last having been used yesterday in assaying deposits and ingots.

October 5th, - Gibbon to Wheeler- 1542 ounces of bullion received - returned 1798 ounces for ingots for coining. All deposits assayed.

October 13th, - Wheeler to Patterson – arrived back here Sunday last and looked at your letters of 26 August and 9 September. Your views on our landscaping are correct, but a misconception arises when it comes to the furnishing my apartments at public expense. Charges for the wardrobe bedstead and for one mattress were presented by me and allowed by the Government. This was not my original intention, but when I found it necessary for a Watch or guard in my necessary absence from home, I had the wardrobe bedstead and mattress placed in the office where it now is, for the sole use of the mint, and placed near the vault to protect Bullion and Coin. My bedstead, tables, utensils, etc. are my own. I made sure to make the distribution between Government allowance and my own expense.

October 23rd, - Wheeler to Patterson – questions – “When gold is deposited which is fit for the operations of the mint, and is received by the Treasurer has the Assayer any right to refuse the assay although it may be of less value than \$100?” The duty of the Assayer is laid down in the 2nd section of the 3rd article of the Mint Act, which gives me the Director the right to assay coin when required by same. The law does not allow refusal. I have been very careful to not deny the \$100 law limit if such amount arrives, but sometimes it occurs.

October 30th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – (this is a back-dated letter found misplaced in the files) – No ingots for coin were prepared for October. Want of cupels was the cause. One Hydrometer packed away with the recent arrival of cupels was found broken. The roof put up by Mr. Bussier still leaks and caused by the plaster not holding the zinc

roofing, thus the wind picks up the zinc and leaks occur. The nails have torn the zinc from the winds and allowed leaks into my apartments. Some parts of the ceiling have given way and threaten us. Refiner reports Iron Casting frames for the sand baths for separating furnaces are cracked by the heat of the fires – requests 2 frames and 2 iron plates to insert.

October 31st – Wheeler to Patterson – submits the monthly report but without the assay report – the reason being given by Gibbon as thus, “They will remain until after process of Refining are complete. With the force of hands in the mint, and the Coiner having no great use for his men, I see no reason why these processes should not go on simultaneously.” Gibbon also still complains about the roof, - have had some leaks soldered. I have had the ceiling of a part of Gibbon’s apartments to be renewed with wood and painted. **2,206 half eagles (\$11,030) coined for October.**

November 2nd, Patterson to Wheeler- in response to yours of the 23rd, I do not consider the point in dispute as coining at all under the 14th Secretary of the Mint Act. As with regard to the duty of the Assayer – the second section says that, “shall carefully assay all metals used in coinage, whereon such assays are required in the operations of the mint.” when a deposit consists of separate parcels it is sometimes required that they be assayed separately. If requested by the depositors, it is customary to accede to his wishes, unless thought to be unreasonable. It should not be imperative on the Assayer to do so, but if needed the Chief Officer should intercede to satisfy the matter – but done with delicacy. I advise Gibbon to make the assay in question, unless a reason to the contrary, which does not appear.

Nov 3rd, - Patterson to Wheeler- let clarify more from my letter of yesterday. “The same individual may make, at the same time, and in the same manner, a deposit for coinage, of bullion really belonging to different individuals, and for which he is separately responsible to different individuals. In this case, the parcels are numbered, and it is required by the depositor that they be separately assayed as valued.” Each parcel will have its own unique determined value, etc. Under these circumstances, any parcel may be refused if its value do not exceed \$100, unless the depositor consents to have it combined with some other, which would change entirely the conditions. He was concerned that his previous letter might have been misunderstood.

November 6th, - Wheeler to Patterson – melt #10 sent – have found to be 899 fineness by Gibbon. Sends month report from Bolton (in Wheeler letter of Oct 31), but Assayer’s report delayed because of a need for alteration – plus he is not in town today.

November 11th, - Gibbon to Patterson (5 page letter – not fully repeated here) – Many very small deposits – 182 have been presented at different times for assay. Some

of them have been refused – and some directed by the Superintendent to do. But because of this favor, small deposits have increased. I suggest no exception to the rule of no separate assay of under \$100 value. October had a large number of deposits, but the cupels did not arrive until Saturday on the 18th, when we needed to assay nearly 50 deposits. It was raining upon delivery so we had to dry the cupels until the 20th when we used them for assays. On the 20th, Mr. Strange handed me a deposit of 53 ounces divided into 5 parcels – upon an assay required for each. 3 were less than \$100 and one weighed 2 ounces. I was informed that Wheeler insisted upon the separate assays, including the 2 ounce one. Wheeler urged that, “I had no right to refuse it.” I said I considered it unlawful. Such a rule should not be partially exercised or there will be loud complaints. The roof is still a problem as leaks have caused problems for the walls of my office. And when the ceiling breaks it offers new avenues for the winds. The nails struck into the zinc is a problem.

November 11th, Wheeler to Patterson – the Assayer has assumed a strange position that it shall be lawful to refuse a deposit of less value than \$100 is not tenable, for you correctly decided that you, “do not consider the point in dispute as coming at all under the section of the law.” You repeated the law declaring the duties of the Assayer, and in relation, “you advise Dr. Gibbon to make the assay in question.” After all this from his views, and your letters, still refuses to assay it. By refusing, he puts the Treasurer (Me) in an embarrassing position. Have to say to a depositor, “although I have received your bullion for coinage, yet the Assayer refuses to assay it, you must return my receipt, and take your bullion.” In relation to this case, I have frankly and freely conferred with Dr. Gibbon. Read my letter to you and furnished him copies of yours. All freely given, except that I should have said that the depositors wrote to me twice requesting assays, which I thought reasonable. Gibbon offered to do it at his leisure, but the depositor wanted an official value fixed on the gold, and the matter should be settled by law and usage. All this may create an improper preference. While the Congress has left it at a sound discretion, I never would (as I never have) press small deposits on the Assayer. I ask – as Treasurer – I receive a deposit for Coinage with careful attention to the duties and labors of my associates, giving a receipt for deposit, does the Assayer discharge his duty in refusing to assay it, and in declining to make his official report of its fineness and value according to Law?

November 12th, Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #10 – 899.5 fineness – satisfactory.

November 27th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #11 – 900 fineness – satisfactory. I see that by your October report that many deposits were not assayed. The interests of your mint is that they should be, and therefore Dr. Gibbon should remove his opposition. For future reference, suggest you follow our policy here – that no such deposit be received without the joint consent of the Treasurer and Assayer. No deposit of less than

\$100, or of base metal suspected to be unfit for mint purposes, is ever received by the Treasurer without consulting with the Assayer – obtaining his consent.

November 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 2,303 half eagles and 4,270 quarter eagles coined for November – total \$22,190.

December 4th, - Gibbon to Wheeler – received 1314 ounces of bullion and returned 2,078 ounces of ingots for coinage. All deposits have been assayed.

December 5th, - Wheeler to Patterson – our force is ample in the mint, and why the process of separation and refining cannot go on simultaneously, is a question I have previously submitted to your consideration.

December 19th, - Patterson to Wheeler – encourage the use of the unassayed bullion in your care for assaying and coining. You currently have too much awaiting processing. Dies for 1841 are being prepared and sent to you in a few days. Refer to my letter of January 24th, 1840 concerning the defacement of dies of the present year – tails excepted if useful. Listed in this letter are several shipments.

December 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – present month received 1434,824 ounces of bullion and returned 1263.83 in ingots. All deposits assayed.

December 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – 1,991 half eagles and 1,644 quarter eagles coined – total \$14,065.

(Note: Charlotte's account of coinage for the year of 1840 is very close to the Red Book figures – Charlotte half eagles – 18,992 – Red Book the same. Charlotte quarter eagles – 12,814 pieces – Red Book 12,822 – difference insignificant)

December 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – my report of bullion received is incomplete – the deposit of October 20th, of 56 ounces is still unassayed by Gibbon. Furnished a copy of your letter and Mr. Strange took the deposit in question to his office, and he refused to assay it. The depositor called to question and informed that it was unassayed, and the assayer was absent from the mint right now. After 2 months, the depositor should have his bullion or coin – he lives 75 miles away. I paid him out of my own pocket what I conceived its value – leaving it still to be valued by assay. I took this risk to continue our integrity. Mr. Gibbon say that you do not make it his duty, although as you say, “the interest of the mint requires the assay.” Some more decisions are required by you, and that early, or the returns of the bullion must be defective. You advise consultation between the both of us, but doesn't seem to work – because previous experiences prove this. The Assayer is frequently absent – his duty is to assay the bullion, and also to assay of ‘instructed to do so.’ (and the law is not imperative as to the limit of \$100) Request that you direct the Assayer assay all deposits received for

coinage, not unsuitable for operations and assay at least once a week. I will be careful as Treasurer to keep deposits within the limit of not less than \$100 and never allow any variance. "The rule which I earnestly and respectfully request you, as having the general management and control of this Branch to lay down, must be respected by the Assayer, will avoid all future difficulty, and is indispensable to the successful operation of this Branch of the Mint."

Statement of the Amount of Coinage at the U.S. Mints, in the year 1840.

<i>Mints</i>	<i>Gold.</i>				<i>Silver.</i>						<i>Total.</i>	
	<i>Half eagles Pieces</i>	<i>Quarter eagles Pieces</i>	<i>Number of Pieces</i>	<i>Value Dollars</i>	<i>Half dollars Pieces</i>	<i>Quarter dollars Pieces</i>	<i>Dimes Pieces</i>	<i>Half dimes Pieces</i>	<i>Number of pieces</i>	<i>Value Dollars</i>	<i>Whole Number of Pieces</i>	<i>Whole Value Dollars</i>
<i>Charlotte</i>	18,994	12,834	31,828	127,055	.	.	.	.	.	.	31,828	127,055
<i>Dahlgren</i>	22,896	3,532	26,428	123,310	.	.	.	.	.	.	26,428	123,310
<i>New Orleans</i>	30,400	26,200	56,600	217,500	855,100	425,200	1,175,000	935,000	3,390,300	698,100	3,446,900	915,600
	72,290	42,566	114,856	467,865	855,100	425,200	1,175,000	935,000	3,390,300	698,100	3,505,156	1,165,965

Total coinage for the year of 1840



1840 C Half Eagle - first issue of mintmark on reverse. Courtesy Heritage

The Year of 1841

(The dispute between Assayer & Superintendent intensifies – a change in Superintendency occurs but dispute with the Assayer continues)

January 1st, 1841 – Patterson to Wheeler – Melt #13 assayed at 898.8 – satisfactory. Sent to Secretary of the Treasury to be forward to you – 1 head die for the half eagle, 1 head for the quarter eagle for 1841.

January 9th, - Patterson to Wheeler – received your report for December but regret the failure of the assay for deposits from the 26th thru the 30th – leaving this report incomplete. I will need these figures for my annual report. Gibbon should do these assays and feel disobliged by his refusal to do so. It is very unpleasant to be called upon to give official orders in a case of this kind. But with the interests of the mint there requires an assay. “I must beg you to convey to Dr. Gibbon my instructions to that effect.” I am anxious that all the disputes, like above, should be avoided in the future. If the Assayer is absent at the time, then the Superintendent is to act as his own discretion (taking great care to avoid difficulties) and the Assayer bound by his decision.

January 9th, - Wheeler to Patterson – forward to you the assay coin of 1840 – Coiner in charge of the Assayer’s key – box contains 36 half eagles, and 16 quarter eagles = \$220.

January 12th, - Wheeler to Patterson – I enclose the report of bullion received and coinage so this will aid you in making the annual report. **The Secretary of the Treasury wrote that the 2 head dies are in route to us and list now the dies defaced dated 1840: 2 half eagle head dies; 1 of half eagle tail; 1 of quarter eagle tail and 1 head of same; making 5 dies defaced. Coinage stated for the year is 19,028 half eagles and 12,838 quarter eagles. Deposits for coinage for 1840 (chiefly from the mines of North Carolina) \$127,540.54.**

January 18th, - Wheeler to Patterson – you are very correct that all disputes between Gibbon and myself relative to official duties should be avoided in the future. “But when Dr. Gibbon assumes a position totally untenable, and will not yield to any position of mine, and contends that only to you he is amenable, if your situation is rendered unpleasant, it may be to me a subject of regret, but it cannot be considered as a fault of mine.” I regret that you did not think it were to adopt my suggestion requiring the Assayer to assay all deposits of bullion received not suitable to our operations. This

would have settled the question, and avoided all conflict. I fear that under your present directions, the Assayer will still contend that he has the right to refuse to assay any deposits that may be under \$100. The rule which I request you to lay down, puts the discretion, where the law seems to place it, and surely the prudence of the Treasurer would be a safe guide to his conduct.

January 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – all in working order. Not an ounce of bullion in my hand at this time. Though Gibbon reports all assays done, but not transferred in a letter until February 1st, 1841.

February 1st, - Wheeler to Patterson – no coinage in January. Coiner requests that the half eagle dies for this should be expedited. He only needs the tail dies (assume he received the head die).

February 18th, - Wheeler to Patterson – it is not satisfactory to me that a full delivery of all the Gold and Silver into the Treasurer's hands as required by law and your directions. As Gibbon did not do this, I felt my duty in some part discharged by communicating this to you in my letter of the 9th. At the end of the quarter (March 1st), he might be required to deliver over all the bullion in his possession, and his amount might be adjusted. But this will require your instructions, since Dr. Gibbon assumes the position, that in the discharge of his duties he is not amenable to the Superintendent, but to the Director only. **Coiner is awaiting half eagle tail dies for this year – old ones are unfit for use.**

February 18th, - Patterson to Wheeler – pair of half eagle and quarter eagle dies, plus extra tail dies for each sent to Treasury and then hence to you.

Feb 23rd, - Gibbon to Patterson – (this is a three page letter – not repeated in full here) – The balance of gold bullion in my hands at end of December was stated in as particular a matter as was possible at the time. I would have willingly transferred it to the Treasurer if he had required it. My workmen were busy with other matters and two of the Coiner's men were ill – I was less accurate in ascertaining the exact amount of the parcels in question than I might have been. It is a delay in collating and preparing the sweeps that causes a difficulty in settling my bullion account at the end of the year. In response to your letter of lack of doing assays – “I have never refused to conform to your instructions. I regret that you thought it necessary to express yourself, “disobliged” by delay in assaying a deposit of less value than \$50. If I had understood you “advise” as a clear expression, I would have with no hesitation, have made the assays. But I thought you meant conditional only. In my opinion, the interests of the mint were involved in showing no preferences – there are more objections to this point than meets your sight. Future deposits will be made, and others done in my absence will be accepted.

February 27th, - Wheeler to Patterson – (this is a late report misfiled in the records) – No coinage this month – having a quantity of half eagle planchets for coining – but postponed because of the failure of the reverse die. (The new dies arrived by this date or very soon after)

March 1st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – month of February – received 1284.881 ounces of bullion – delivered 1020,260 ounces for coinage. All deposits assayed.

March 13th, - Patterson to Wheeler – Your deposits of 34 and 35, which were reported with dissatisfaction by the depositors, have been twice assayed by Eckfeldt. I am sorry to say that his results differ considerably as those from Gibbon. Gibbon - #34-853 versus Eckfeldt – 862.5. Gibbon #35 – 832 ounces versus Eckfeldt – 846.5. If correct, the loss to the depositors for #34 is 1.102 per cent, and 1.713 per cent from #35. In a large deposit this would be trifling, but still regretted. Hope that Gibbon will repeat the assay, and endeavor to find the source of the cause.

March 20th, - C. Dewey of the Bank of the State of North Carolina of Raleigh to Wheeler or Patterson? (Does not say which) – Reported that some of the miners in the gold region, having been dissatisfied with assay results at the Branch Mint at Charlotte, have requested that we would send a portion of it to the Mint at Philadelphia. In compliance, I send 2 packages, numbers 1 and 2 containing 12 lbs of gold dust, weighing 7,771.6 grains – which please have assayed, each parcel separately – the object being to compare the results of assays from the same mines made at Philadelphia and Charlotte.

March 24th, - Gibbon to Patterson – have great regret the discrepancy between the Eckfeldt and my assays of numbers 34 and 35. It is not in my favor to repeat the assays – deposits have been melted for separation. I had assayed them twice. Possibly, since there was no loss in the cupellations, and unless equal portions of each had exploded at the moment of cooling, remained attached to the muffle, or that some peculiar alloy in the metal caused the difference – I am unable to account.

March 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – all deposits assayed. The Refiner asks for 12 carboys of nitric acid. Please send as early as possible, before the communications with Charleston is interrupted.

March 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – 1,960 pieces of the half eagle and 2,070 pieces of the quarter eagle struck for the month of March.

April 10th, - Wheeler to Patterson – in response to yours, Dr. Gibbon has never complied with the Law as to actual delivery once a year of all the gold and silver bullion

in his hands, and his wastage reports on my books has been settled on his terms. Your letter on the assays of numbers 34 and 35 – the depositor expressed much dissatisfaction at the assay here and assured me he knew the value – and he wished to withdraw the bullion. This is the second time this happened to this depositor. He is an extensive purchaser of gold. The Bank of the State of North Carolina was formerly one of our largest depositors, but has had much complaint of the assays of Gibbon's. Gibbon also has asked for 12 carboys of acid when he already has 10 or 15 available which is enough for a year in advance. I am unwilling to accumulate more unnecessary material.

April 12th, - Patterson to Wheeler – have the request from your M/R department for supplies. When you were here you felt that you did not need another supply of acid – let me know how we should proceed. I need to mention that our men are in the habit, when necessary of cutting down the larger covers, before annealing them.

April 30th, - Bolton to Wheeler – 1,620 half eagles struck, which is ready for delivery awaiting verification from Philadelphia on the fineness of the gold metal.

May 4th, - Patterson to Wheeler – received this morning your monthly report for April and am pleased that you show an increase in deposits. Melt #4 from you is at 899.4 – almost exactly the report from Gibbon on same, thus satisfactory.

May 19th, - Patterson to Wheeler – have received 6 barrels of sweep from your mint – weight 1932 pounds - \$225.95 in gold and \$60.63 in silver. Surprised that the sweeps are double of what we have here produced for sale. Patterson then adds various procedures done at their mint to assure that depositors get their just due and are not given less than available to them.

May 31st, - Bolton to Wheeler – 4,000 quarter eagles struck and delivery awaiting verification of metal.

May 31st, - Gibbon to Wheeler – all deposits assayed. Received 942 ounces of bullion and have returned 939 ounces of ingots for coinage.

June 1st, - Wheeler to the U. S. President John Tyler– a grievance – (contains a long story here) – letter to the President that first reads that his operations are impeded, and success frustrated by the neglect of official duty, incompetency, and insubordination of the Assayer – John H. Gibbon. Wheeler requested a replacement who would give his attention to duty, and have confidence from the community. Refer you to the Director for further information on this matter. The character of the Assayer is a detriment to the operations of this mint.

June 1st, - Wheeler to Patterson – (a long letter but because of its importance is here listed in its entirety) – This letter is a detailed list of complaints of Gibbon performing as Assayer and a person. Wheeler begins by discussing the sweeps situation but adds that Gibbon is absent at the time – at his home of some distance – and when he is here, it is absolutely impossible to consult him because of his strange demeanor. We cannot progress without a more “attentive, efficient, and competent officer for Assayer.” I send my letter to the President (just written this same day) to you for your perusal and placement of a name in the blank space of one line. 1st complaint- he is absent for days at a time, without explanation or consent. His duties are neglected, which leaves the Coining department with nothing to coin for long spans of time. 2nd complaint – Incompetency. Unsatisfactory assays, which effects severely our bullion deposits from the Bank. The miners mostly send their bullion to other sources of processing. 3Rd – Insubordination. Gibbon never acts as a subordinate officer of this mint. Feels he is always independent of control. He never obeys unless directed by you the Director. I have borne this problem with him since the beginning. However, last week (the 29th) it broke into open violence as I will detail. I received a letter from the Acting Controller of the Treasury “adjusting the accounts of 1st quarter 1841” – requesting an explanation of two sacks of salt purchased. When Gibbon came in, I gave the voucher to the door keeper to send to him to certify that the salt was purchased for the use of the mint – this was returned without that statement. I then took it myself and politely asked him to make the statement. He said he knew nothing about the salt – but then I told him his two workers (Terres and Irwin) said it was for the Refinery, and used directly by him. He still refused. I then stated in the future that I desire that any requisition I would need in writing – that way no misunderstanding would arise. Gibbon flew into a rage, and ordered me to leave the Assay room, and by not complying, he seized me most violently by the throat and pushed me beyond the door. He gave me further abuse such as “You are an impudent fellow”, and other epithets. No excuse for this conduct, and I wish to pursue a replacement for him.

June 8th, - Patterson to Thomas Ewing (Secretary of the Treasury) -Sent letters from Wheeler to him and to the President. You will see the difficulty between them resorted to violence. Wheeler requests removal of the Assayer. The President has asked me to confirm the evidence if well founded. It is claimed that Gibbon has habitual absences, but I find lack of evidence for that since he has sent monthly reports. His deposits are all assayed, and generally within a short time – except for maybe one instance. It is stated that the Coiner and his men have nothing to do in several instances, but the Treasurer (Wheeler) has heavy amounts of bullion on hand. I cannot see the validity of this part of the complaint. I cannot see Gibbon’s case be an entire case, since this is such a delicate operation (assaying) an end may occur without proving incompetence. Patterson feels it is a mistake to believe that Charlotte is losing a lot from deposits being sent elsewhere. Since the Charlotte mint has been in operation, the

deposits have been \$130,600, \$126,836, and \$124,726. But the point in question is competence and I have a judgment. I have required that all the gold mints that slips be sent here for assay from every melt, and approved by us before coinage can be delivered. These results have shown Gibbon to be competent, so I disagree with the incompetence claim. The 3rd claim on insubordination – there has been a long standing of an unhappy relationship between the two – frequently called by the Superintendent for my interference. Found Gibbon to be generally in the wrong, but he has always yielded to my decisions. That he has been guilty of insubordination I can neither assent or deny. For there is a kind of military offense, that cannot (?) be defined in the Government of the mint. (Note: highly questionable reasoning here) That a personal dispute between the two last week cannot be doubted, but it would be necessary to hear the representation which the accused may have to give the matter. This should be held yet for inquiry and investigation, and would have undertaken before this letter to you, and not send the letter to the President without first corresponding to you.

June 14th, - Ewing to Patterson – procure all the information you can in relation to the subject and report to this department to eventually send all to the President.

June 16th, - Patterson to Wheeler – have sent your letters and mine to the Secretary on the Gibbon matter and I am to ascertain the facts to eventually send the material to the President to let him decide the matter. I ask you to specifically send me the best evidence of the events, and be attentive to the following points: Neglect of duty – what distance does Gibbon reside from the mint, and whether he returns from home each night, and whether his absence for days is habitual. You say the Coiner is not busy when you have bullion on hand. The Bank of North Carolina has withdrawn bullion you say but your amount I question, and I need proof. Insubordination – your last affray cannot be too deeply regretted, but you will see the propriety of not making it a subject for action, until the representative of the accused party can be received. Hope that a legal thing will be avoided if possible, and I do not think that it can be necessary.

June 16th, - Patterson to Gibbon – sent a copy of the accusations against you. An application has been made to the President from Wheeler for your removal. I am requiring all the information on the matter, to give to the Secretary and then to the President. I request your immediate reply.

June 23rd, - Wheeler to Patterson – reports that Gibbon's domicile is about 4 miles in the country, he uniformly returns home at night, his absence for day is habitual – about ½ a week at a time. His assays are generally on time – helped by the Clerk to throw in another deposit for the month to complete. Assays delayed for example one made on a Monday – called from the depositor on Wednesday following – bullion not yet assayed. Complaints continue. The actual amounts of bullion left in my hands are of

different dates which shows the “unaccountable delays”. The different date will answer the length of time that this bullion has been left uncoined. I enclose direct evidence of the utter want of confidence in the most important depositors. Your comparison of year’s production is not quite correct, because instead of a \$130,000 production, we could have had a \$250,000 annual production if the Assayer had done the assays more frequently. I have given you the facts including the rash conflict against me, should give evidence for his removal.

June 23rd, - A Mr. Elms from the Bank of the State of North Carolina to Wheeler as evidence of the assay problem from Gibbon, and this letter is attached to the previous.

June 26th, - Gibbon to Patterson – your letter of the 16th was missent to Charleston, South Carolina. I cannot yet reply to your letter, but will.

June 28th, - Bank of North Carolina to Patterson, or Wheeler? - (This is a 3 page letter – summarized here) – More evidence from the Bankers that miners are upset with the results of the assays from Charlotte.

June 30th, Bolton to Wheeler – has the “painful” duty of no coinage for the month – no ingots received. Gibbon reports same date that all deposits have been assayed.

July 9th, - Wheeler to Patterson – a further evidence letter from the public. On Gibbon, one Judge, Duncan Cameron, says that Gibbon’s assays were not as good as Philadelphia’s. Another letter from a Colonel Avery, one of unblemished reputation, and engaged in mining has deposited large amounts – delays of assays and inaccuracy of same resulting in an average loss of 1 and ½ to 2 percent. Said that he has been told that, “most of the depositors have made it a condition of the sale, that the gold should not be sent to Charlotte. Bechtler is receiving quite a bit of the deposits.

July 15th, - Gibbon to Patterson – in answer to Judge Cameron’s letter – a conversation between the Judge and Wheeler at Raleigh April last – was repeated here in Wheeler’s own way in front of Strange and myself. Cameron responded to me that he merely responded to Wheeler’s inquiry why we had ceased sending bullion. I am not aware that the complaint was of value. A deposit may be caused to vary in value and loss be encountered by a depositor without any inaccuracy in the process of assay – neither Superintendent or depositors are usually guaranteed with. Attention and fidelity in the Treasurer, are equally expected as with the Assayer. The complaint of depositors with the loss of weight – and which the Treasurer, the Superintendent, is immediately responsible. Other complaints have not reached me from the Superintendent, who is now alone accountable for such loss and conducts his correspondence without consultations. The refusals go directly to the fault of the Superintendent. Judge Cameron assures me

that he has “no intention to know a witness in the matter as he had “no personal knowledge of the matter complained of.” The Superintendent continues to blame me, but I have endeavored to correct any mistake – but the Superintendent has magnified himself at my expense by blaming me. If I am not believed, then I will adhere to your decision if I am to absent myself from here.

July 17th, - Patterson to Ewing – to inform you that a letter from Wheeler says that assays of Gibbon are unsatisfactory and that is why they are losing depositors. This to me does not prove positively that this is incompetence. It is announced that Bechtler is getting a lot of the bullion, but I do not believe the numbers. Bechtler himself states that his deposits are less since Charlotte was established, and reduced to a mere trifle. I feel that the Charlotte Mint is substantial, and the loss comes from the less output of gold from the mines.

July 24th, - Patterson to Gibbon – (a misfiled letter – past the August 20th letter) – All the paperwork concerning you and Wheeler’s dispute was sent to the Department with my report. I presented the matter, as I believe, truly and impartially. I do not think anything else you might prefer to being about would throw any new light of importance upon the case, so I cannot recommend that you should undertake so ungrateful a task.

July 26th, - Wheeler to (?) - a Mr. C. Henderson of Lincolnton, North Carolina, deposited gold, and gave us the following information that Colonel Burgess Sidney Gaither has been placed as Superintendent of the Charlotte Mint by U. S. President Tyler. Gaither is 35, married with children, is a lawyer, was a delegate to the Harrisburg Whig Convention. Appointment has consent of the Senate and announced July 24th, but before the Washington papers.

Author’s note: This is the first announcement of Wheeler’s removal as Superintendent of the Charlotte Mint to the appointment of Gaither as his replacement. By the middle of August, Patterson had heard the public reports of the change, but had not yet received the confirmation. By being replaced, Wheeler had now less leverage in his charges against Assayer Gibbon, but as the following letters attest, Wheeler did not give up. Since U. S. President Tyler was a Whig in political beliefs, it is apparent that he wished to have a Whig at the Charlotte Mint’s helm.

July 30th, Bolton to Wheeler – 1,850 half eagles coined.

July 31st, - Wheeler to Patterson – by the last mail, I see that Mr. Gaither has been appointed Superintendent of this branch and assume I shall receive official

correspondence soon. This will be my last official act between us. May I express a cordial wish for your success and happiness.

August 9th, - Wheeler to Patterson – yours of the 16th informed me, “that my communication as regards the removal of the Assayer were sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, by whom you were instructed to procure all the information you can, relative to the subject, and to report it to the Department, to be submitted to the President.” I have been waiting with some anxiety to see the results, which if you have made, will you please forward me a copy.

August 13th, - New Charlotte Superintendent, Burgess Sidney Gaither to Patterson – Enclosing my official bond of \$10,000, oath of office taken before Judge Battle – one of our judges in the state of North Carolina.

August 14th, - Patterson to Wheeler – received your July monthly reports. Your successor has been publicly announced, but I as of yet not received confirmation. I reciprocate your kind feelings to me in your letter.

August 20th, - Patterson to Wheeler – My report on your complaint against the Assayer has been sent to the President, but I have no authority to send you a copy. However, I will mention that I did not recommend the course to be pursued, and that I have not been informed as to the course which has been or would be pursued. Mr. Gaither’s bond has been approved and he is in route to your place – that is why I have addressed you personally.

August 30th, - Patterson to Gaither – received your letter of the 24th announcing that you have done all the formalities of your new position. I hope our intercourse, which now commences, may remain satisfactory, personally and officially.

August 31st, - Bolton to Gaither – no coinage this month – no ingots to operate on.

September 3rd, - Gibbon to Gaither – received 983 ounces of bullion, which have this day been cast into ingots for coinage. All deposits for August assayed. And Gibbon added, in postscript, several items needed for his department.

September 10th, - Patterson to Gaither – pleased to see an improvement in the amount of deposits. The M/R is bound to keep his gold wastage within a certain limit, and he must not be permitted to make an apparent reduction in his wastage, by using the silver derived from his processes, for paying the charge of melting. Gibbon’s requisitions, which should have your approval notice, will be sent nonetheless.

September 18th, - Patterson to Gaither – your melt #8 assayed here to be a fineness of 898.5 – confirmed and satisfactory.

September 30th, - Gibbon to Gaither – received 659 ounces bullion and transferred 1,947 ounces of ingots for coinage. All deposits assayed. The Director in his letter misinterpreted my motive in a slight alteration in the mode of settling my sweeps. Since we strike gold only, felt it was not consistent that I should be credited with the silver in the sweeps – but here full credit for all the gold contained in them to settle my gold account at the end of the year. (Gibbon explains this a bit further in this letter – not fully repeated here) Gibbon then wrote that he did not wish to increase or diminish the amount of my wastage of gold. But you are aware of the prejudice that exists among the mountain miners in consequence of very incorrect ideas with regard to the wastage of gold.

September 30th, - Bolton to Gaither – 2,610 half eagles and 3,220 quarter eagles struck this month.

October 1st, - Strange to Patterson – by our report, you will see that we had a large coinage last month. Your several letters have been received and will be attended to when Gaither returns from his residence in Burke County. It has been sickly with us here this fall, that it seemed dangerous to remove his family to this place till the season is more advanced.

October 8th, - Gaither to Patterson – feel that our \$11,000 appropriation adequate and do not feel it will be expended and feel a rigid economy that I can reduce the contingency expenditures of the mint.

October 12th, - Gibbon to Patterson – due to the death of Mr. Bolton's son, Jeremiah, there is a need for another workman in my assay department. This is an immediate need for our assay operations – could be very much delayed. It seems unnecessary for me to repeat that the Coiner's workmen are incapable, or usually generally unwilling to aid in our operations while we are often obliged to ask assistance from him. The Coiner has frequently completed his work during the absence of one of his hands. Need a competent assistant here who could work in both departments.

October 12th, - Gaither to Patterson – understand that we do not have to wait for confirmation from you on our assays – but go ahead and coin before if needed. This will facilitate operations and pay depositors on time.

October 25th, - Gibbon to Gaither – Wheeler had purchased, when he was here, 10 carboys said to be nitric acid – but 3 were sulphuric acid. This I am informed and was a

suspended order over my requisition. The quality of the acid is inferior from what we receive from Philadelphia. Refiner reports only one carboy and a half of acid remains – need to order more as soon as possible.

October 25th, - Gaither to Patterson – in answer to the edict passed by Congress to as to the number of persons in government employ – we have here 3 officers, a clerk, and five workmen as provided by law. Here, Gaither describes their duties and adds that the workmen are distributed between the Assayer and Coiner. Officers, Clerk and workmen usually work 10 hours out of 24. Officers and Clerk wage is fixed by law, while the workmen receive \$2.25 per deem, subject to reduction for all lost time. There have been no removals since March 4th, except William Berryhill, whom I employed as Porter/Servant at \$20/month. Believing there was no law against this, but public interest did not require his services, so he was dismissed and office abolished. I do not deem it practical to reduce our workforce.

October 30th, - Bolton to Gaither – no coinage this month for the fact that despite getting a large amount of ingots, they were found too brittle to strike coin – returned to Treasurer.

November 2nd, - Gibbon to Gaither – received 2,457 ounces of bullion – delivered to Treasurer 2,652 ounces for coinage. All deposits assayed.

November 30th, - Bolton to Gaither – 6,235 half eagles struck this month. Needs oil in a short time, a barrel of the best winter strain will last a long time. Need 2 dies – one half and one quarter eagle head, the tail dies I have enough for the next year.

December 2nd, - Gibbon to Gaither – received 2,408 ounces of bullion and delivered 2,206 ounces for coinage. All deposits assayed. Need 250 common straight fire bricks, 50 half bricks (square) and barrel of fine clay for cement to repair the furnaces, a dozen wooden dippers with handles for the Refinery.

December 3rd – Barker (Acting Comptroller) to Patterson – explanation of purchase by former Charlotte Superintendent for a “Gilt Eagle” – a proper charge against the U. S.?

December 6th, - Patterson to Barker – I was never consulted on the Gilt Eagle and did not authorize. Mr. Wheeler did mention that he notified me but I find no letter from him on the subject. But I do recall someone saying that there was such an ornament placed in front of the Charlotte mint. “I report however that my consent to such an appendage was never asked or given. Still, I have no doubt that the condition may be

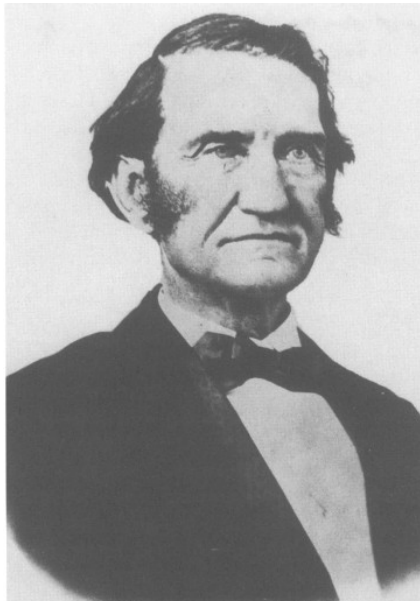
made under an impression (?), in which unhappily I do not join, that the Eagle would be a great ornament to the building, and I do not know that Mr. Wheeler was under any obligation to consult me in the matter.”

December 14th, - Patterson to Gaither – articles ordered by your Assayer and Coiner will be sent in a short time. Dies for 1842 are being prepared.

December 29th, - Patterson to Gaither – Gibbon asked for cast iron frames (plates?) for sand baths, however we have dispensed with these and have substituted large tiles, perforated with holes to admit cast iron pans (?) and it is a great improvement – that we have sent these with the other articles requested.

December 31st, - Bolton to Gaither – 5,361 half eagles and 1,011 quarter eagles coined in December.

December 31st, - Gibbon to Gaither – received 1,542 ounces bullion – delivered 1,841 ounces in ingots for coinage. All deposits assayed. During the year, of 1841 – received 13,549 ounces and delivered 13,492 for ingots. A large portion of the deposits came at the end of the year, and it was impossible to use the ordinary process to have all the accumulation of pots, crucibles, and refuse to work the and collect the grains and to flux and value the “Sweeps” in time to settle my account by the end of the year. I have a plan – all the refuse implements and sweeps were barreled up, sent to a gold mill for grinding ores. The gross parts were broken down by heavy iron rollers revolving in water, coarse grains collected by a rocker or worker. More description followed, and then he concludes, “By this means, I have been able to asses value and to offer my end of year report. Hope this will be accepted by the Director. Then he discusses his clarification about his sweeps.



*New Superintendent Burgess
Sidney Gaither took office Aug
1841*

(Copy.)

U. S. Branch Mint,
Charlotte, N.C. 1 June, 1841.

Sir,

As Superintendent of the Branch Mint at this place, I would state that its operations are impeded, and its success entirely frustrated, by the neglect of official duty, incompetency, and insubordination of the person appointed to discharge the duty of Assayer, Melted & Refiner, John H. Gibbons.

I request for the above reasons that you appoint in his stead believing
and expecting that in his attention to duty the public interests will be safe, in whose competency the community will have confidence, and in whose demeanor the Chief Officer of this Branch can rely for that support & co-operation that is essential to success.

I refer you to the Director of the Mint at Phil^a, who has by law the general direction of the Mint and its Branches for the well founded complaints against this officer, the character of the person recommended as his successor, and my own official observation & faithful discharge of duty.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
your obt. Serv^t

To,
His Excellency,
The President of the
United States.

(Signed) Jno. W. Wheeler,
Superintendent.

Wheeler's letter to the President in complaint of Gibbon

Statement of the Amount of Gold Bullion received and Coinage
executed at the United States Branch Mint at Charlotte N.C.
during the year 1841.

1841

	Oz.	dec.	Dolls.	cts		$\frac{1}{2}$ Eagles	$\frac{1}{4}$ Eagles	Dolls.	cts
January	537.	642	6.653.	72	✓				
February	288.	152	5.360	96	✓				
March	367.	710	6.841.	07	✓	✓ 1.960.	✓ 2.070.	14.975.	
April	1.101.	430	20.491.	64	✓				
May	226.	423	4.212.	49	✓	3.451		17.255.	✓
June	241.	825	4.499.	06	✓		3.980.	9.950	
July	474.	009	8.818.	73	✓	✓ 1.850.		9.250	✓
August	856.	466	15.934	15	✓				
Septem ^r	664.	095	12.355.	16	✓	✓ 2.610.	3.220.	21.100.	✓
October	1.306.	284	24.302.	70	✓				
Novem ^r	608.	566	11.322.	07	✓	✓ 6.235.		31.175.	✓
Decem ^r	634.	019	11.795.	66	✓	✓ 5.361	40	26.805	✓
	7.126.	621	132.587.	41	✓	21.467.	9.270.	130.510.	
					Dr. —		1,011	2,527	50.

Gold bullion and coinage total (by month) for 1841

The Year of 1842

A deficit of gold bullion in the Coiner's Accounts, and some defective coin

January 4th, - 1842 – Gaither to Patterson – the amount of coinage for the month of December will be probably \$2,000 more than the amount given in the abstract, reason being that a coinage of a melt from Melt #15 is now going on, that will be carried to that month. I wish to report that \$73,000 of the amount of bullion received since August 18th, 1841 was when I took over the institution. The prejudices against us, I think have been removed – recent assays have given satisfaction and there has been a pleasant communication with all my officers.

January 8th, - Gaither to Patterson – Bolton report exhibits large amount of coinage in the month of December than I estimated in the abstract sent you in my letter of January 4th, and \$260 the value of the coins for assay should be added, show coinage for 1841 at \$133,297.50. One head for half eagle and 1 head for quarter eagles dies received.

January 11th, - Gaither to Patterson – concerning a larger loss than normal by the Coiner, I have then have given him every opportunity to detect any error in keeping his accounts and offered him in every way to explain the extra wastage in his department, but he has been unable to show the slightest error, or to give any satisfactory explanation how the deficiency originated. The Treasurer's accounts show the same loss. I will need your advice on this so that I may send my quarterly report to the Treasury Department.

January 12th, - Patterson to Gaither – your last melt sent assayed at 898 fine (tested twice) which is at my limit, and shouldn't be legally valid. No deviation from the standard of more than one thousandth. But since the ingots have already been coined probably, this will have to pass, but it should not have occurred.

January 20th, - Patterson to Gaither – disturbed by your letter of the 11th. Bolton, when here at this mint, is aware of the simple system of checks, but still incurred this large loss. If the operations of his department were conducted with care, such a loss could not be ascribed to legitimate and excusable wastage, and which when detected it should have been treated as possible fraud – and an inquiry implemented. Check all memorandums of each delivery of ingots, and of returns, by his men, from each delivery, in planchets, clippings, and filings. It is your duty to apply all means to determine the reason or reasons, for loss. You say the deficit is \$243.87, must be paid by the Coiner –

and hope he has the funds – if not it must be deducted from his salary. Until this is resolved, and if an employee is found in the wrong, and can't be reimbursed from him, the Coiner is still responsible.

February 1st, - Gaither to Patterson – **received \$14,047.75 in bullion this month which far exceeds any January of 1839, 1840 and 1841. (highest before was \$6,653.72) I have ordered no coinage this month (January) because of the wait for your instructions of procedure concerning the Coinage departments wastage loss. Here defaced 2 heads half eagle, 2 heads quarter eagle, and 1 tail half eagle.** Have received various articles forwarded but regret to say the pot covers are too small for the black lead pots we use here.

February 4th, - Gaither to Patterson – report that I am unable to give you a satisfactory explanation of the loss matter. I have used every means in my power to find the cause, and I have made every effort to explain, or have any reason to implicate workmen or any individual connected with the mint. Yet, Bolton has not given any reason to cast the slightest shad of suspicion upon an individual but himself. This is all painful for me, but “I fear that he has abstracted from each coinage, such an amount as the law would excuse for wastage, and in doing so he has got beyond the most liberal limits of the law.” I say this because I do notice in my books some discrepancies, but cannot prove them as the source of loss. Mr. Bolton has checked his records thoroughly, including the responsibilities of his workers. Bolton is always present, and assists most times in his department and keeps the gold under his personal care. Have had to ask him for reimbursement of the \$243.87 and he is embarrassed by the whole affair.

February 9th, - Patterson to Gaither – received your coins for assay by way of Rev Mr. Jeanes. However, proper procedure is to send the coins in separate smaller parcels by way of the Secretary of the Treasury to send to the Director of Philadelphia. Private transport of coins to us should not be done.

February 16th, - Patterson to Gaither – have received your copies of Bolton's accounts for the 1841 year and cannot at all see Bolton being the culprit. When he was here in Philadelphia, under the Chief Coiner, he did an honest and thorough job and had great integrity. I agree with you that the loss may have occurred during some transfer or coining itself, but cannot be sure either. It is sad to realize that the loss is considered a felony by the law of March 3rd, 1825 that proscribes by a fine, and imprisonment at hard labor, and before the passage of that law, was punishable by death. I have shown Eckfeldt and Peale your statements and reports and they concur in the opinion that no such inference can be drawn from the irregularity in the reported monthly deficits. (A theory is then proposed at length here, not repeated in full) Last, he wrote that you both

have done all you could to rectify the situation, so I will recommend no further step be taken other than increased vigilance.

February 19th, -Gibbon to Gaither – need one carboy pure nitric acid two hydrometers for strong acids – last sent being broken, some circular brick – those all sent were square. The workmen report that several pot covers received have been annealed, and that they appear of bad quality generally.

February 22nd, - Gaither to Patterson – in executing the coin from Melt #1 we found the die so defective that it defaced the coin, and I declined to issue them – received them as clippings from the Coiner. Please send another half eagle and quarter eagles heads. The quarter eagle head is too much defaced to use again, and our supply of half eagle heads will not be sufficient for the year.

March 1st, - Gaither to Patterson – 2,555 half eagles struck on February 25th.

March 26th, - Gaither to Patterson – 2,040 half eagles struck.

April 1st, - all deposits made for the month and nothing further from the Assayer. **Have received from the Secretary of the Treasury one head die of both the half eagle and quarter eagle. (Authors note: the more valuable – today – of the 1842 Charlotte small date of the half eagle was struck before April 1st – not before known when. It's total struck amount is 4,595 pieces – and is now the amount of this variety from the yearly mintage of 27,432 pieces. The small date of 4,595 pieces is one of the rarest coins from this mint – and is in Walter Breen's United States Coinage tome, and the Red Book, with this same figure)**

April 7th, - Patterson to Gaither – received your March report and see that your wastage is within the law. Yet, not such is ought to satisfy either the Coiner or yourself. Continue with your vigilance.

April 15th, - Gaither to Patterson – has the one carboy of pure nitric acid been sent? Our supply is nearly exhausted and we may have to delay operations. Please have a carboy sent ASAP to J. S. Chambers in Charleston.

April 21st, - Patterson to Gaither – we shipped all your material requested on the 9th, including the carboy requested. I will contact Mr. Chambers to send without delay.

April 29th, - Gaither to Patterson – the last 2 melts we sent we see do not agree close enough with Eckfeldt's figures. Gibbon fears that the acid used is not pure enough.

The articles you forwarded have arrived at Charleston, S. C. and are making their way here by road.

May 3rd, - Gaither to Patterson – month report for April states that Charlotte has received more gold bullion than in any month previous, since we were in operation. **1,640 half eagles coined.**

May 17th, - Gibbon to Patterson – my son, John Gibbon, is making his way to West Point and I desire that he meet with you.

May 28th, - Gaither to Patterson – May 7th – 3,294 half eagles, May 18th – 2,366 half eagles, total for month is 5,660 half eagle pieces struck.

June 4th, - Gibbon to Patterson – after the death of Bolton's son, the Coiner invited me to take another workman into my department. I selected Alexander Robertson as the most useful I could employ. In April, he had to take care of some business first before he could join me. Because of this, he offered to work extra hours that I might deem important. I accepted and placed him in the Refinery to do side work after hours. He repaired tools and other duties, which aided in the ordinary work. I was satisfied that he had compensated for the lost time. I paid him a full month's wages although he is within the (unreadable?) limits during 3 working days in April and 2 days in May. His business affairs – he is no longer involved with. The Superintendent has asked for your opinion on the propriety of allowing his extra work as a mechanic – making up for lost time.

June 10th, - Patterson to Gaither – **calls attention to the defective condition of the milling of your coins. The grooves on the edge look as if they have been made with a file. At times, they have been refused as counterfeits, for the reason, that yesterday we had 4 quarter eagles brought to the mint for the purpose of determining whether they are legitimate coin.** Gibbon asked me about Mr. Robertson and his use in extra hours in compensation in his department. Paying hi a full month will have to have the time he has missed deducted from his pay, though I am not pleased with the practice of anyone working extra hours. I am confident that time can be found during normal work hours for the extra duties presented.

June 30th, - Gaither to Patterson – concerning the defective milling of our coin, I addressed a note to Bolton with your notes, and received an explanation the paper marked B – (assume in a coming letter). Hopefully, Bolton will remedy the evil. The case of Gibbon with the temporary (or made up time for) employee Alexander Robertson is repeated here with Gaither's opinions. You are probably unaware that Robertson was charged with an inability to pay a dept with his business partner, thus we was in prison a short time in April and part of May awaiting trial. He gave bond but

could not return to the mint at that time. “During the latter part of Court week the month of April terminated, and Mr. Robertson, though absent several days from his duties, was paid a full month’s wages, without any deduction for lost time, and without anything being said about extra pay for extra hours, due him therefore. Robertson was released from his bond in early May and returned to duty. I required a deduction of his pay for days missed, while in the prison bounds in the month of May. Gibbon said he had given Robertson permission to attend to his business in Court, (which I was willing to respect), and that he was entitled to extra pay for extra hours.” Gaither declined pay for the extra hours for it would set a difficult precedent for the other workers. Gibbon gave a Certificate for pay for the whole month, and required of me that I should honor his Certificate or make it a personal matter with him. I stayed my ground for pay deductions, and the pay is unjust. I need your opinion and direction in this matter. Robertson has refused any pay for the month, unless I pay the whole amount. I am considering removing him, but will await your decision. Gaither finishes this letter with a surprising statement: “I thin I probably come to Philadelphia in August or September, and have a personal interview with you.” But Gaither adds this interesting note – **“I think it more than probable that Dr. Gibbon and myself cannot both remain in the Mint, but I will not annoy you any further with this matter.”** (Author’s note – looks like another Superintendent is having serious problems with Gibbon)

June 30th, - Bolton to Gaither – (this is the letter B note that Gaither mentioned previously) – **Bolton said that he was not aware of the coins being so defective. I have been repairing and overhauling machinery and the tools for making collars, which I have completed, have new collars made which should correct the problem.**

June 30th, - Gibbon to Gaither – zinc and sand crucibles nearly exhausted – should have 300 lbs of zinc and 3 barrels of sand pots – needed immediately. Need 2 sheets of Russian rolled iron to form into coal pans – the last Superintendent ordered tin dust pans which were useless. Need another carboy of pure acid.

June 30th, - Gaither to Patterson – 3,738 quarter eagles, and 2,536 half eagles coined for June.

July 11th, - Patterson to Gaither – in answer to the Robertson situation – It is that no man should be allowed for extra hours work, unless he has worked more than ten hours on the same day. Apply this to his case, and if under it, he can establish a claim to any effect to his deduction for absence, I would allow it. I see no reason for going further. “Let it be distinctly understood however, that I do not mean to interfere in this question by specific instructions, and that I consider it a matter of your discretion.”

July 25th, - Patterson to Gaither – a shipment has been made for Gibbon to fulfill his requests.

July 30th, - Gaither to Patterson – cannot send you the month report yet. The reason being is that the Assayer has not reported to me the fineness of several deposits made some days since and may be several days yet. Gibbon says one of his hands is sick with the fever and cannot have the assays made. I had to tell depositors that their deposits would not be ready for payment, so they are sending them your way. Gibbon has 2 hands still available and should have done the assays. In relation to the Robertson case, my duty to the government prevails and that I will not allow the pay, and endeavored, without effect, to get Gibbon to amend his Certificate – to show the deduction was made by he and not me. Upon Gibbon's refusal, I required Robertson to give me his receipt for his wages subject to the deduction. But he refused and wants the whole pay still. To keep my books straight, I sent my report to the Treasury without putting any payment to Robertson with it. I then informed Robertson that he is dismissed for such open acts of insubordination. I will probably not replace him until I see you. My opinion is that 2 hands, for both M/R and Coin departments is sufficient, because it seems to have worked well in the past. I am leaving in the morning in a visit to my family and remain during the unhealthy season. Mr. Strange will take care of the duties.

July 30th, - Gibbon to Patterson – response to the Robertson situation, and is a (3 page letter that will not be repeated here in full detail) – Gibbon begins with his reasoning for his wage procedure with Robertson. Without going further in detail, it basically says that he was trying to maintain harmony in his department and did say he deducted some wages from Robertson for lost time. However, not only did his procedure go against regulations, it also was left from the Superintendent's knowledge. At this letter, it seems that Gibbon is unsure that Gaither dismissed Robertson. At the end, Gibbon asked Patterson, if I have done wrong, please let him know.

July 30th, - Gibbon to Patterson – a second letter written this day from him, and now he knows about the dismissal. "I have not been consulted in any manner with regard to it – it will subject us to serious inconvenience – and I have no knowledge of any cause of such action. I enclose the note to Robertson and submit the whole matter to you. I confess I cannot understand it."

Branch Mint
Charlotte 30 July 1842

Mr. Alexander Robertson

You are informed
that the Government has no further use
for your services in this Branch of the
Mint and you will consider yourself
discharged from this day

Yours &c
B. S. Gaither
Superintendent

Letter from Gaither firing Robertson

August 1st, - Gibbon to Gaither – concerning Robertson – When payment of his wages for May was objected to, I paid him in full from my own salary. I requested Robertson not in any manner contrary to my voucher. In declining, respectfully, to sign a receipt for a less sum than I had certified – and am responsible for it. He would have been notified with any decision. He only abstained from interfering with my duties – by my orders. I have workmen with sickness and will be impossible to me to attempt to carry on business with less aid than I have had. I appeal to your sense of justice and reinstate Robertson.

August 2nd, - Gibbon to Patterson – (a five page letter repeated here almost verbatim because of its importance) – First, Gibbon said that Robertson was fired solely by his obeying my orders. Said that Gaither has expressed a desire to invite the younger Bechtler from Rutherford to take the place of deceased Jeremiah Bolton – this caused some alarm from Bolton and asked that I take charge of another workman, I immediately traveled to Gaither's home and talked about Robertson. Gaither told me that some of his friends were upset that a Democrat had been posted in the mint. I selected Robertson because he was honest and a good workman. The Superintendent, after he returned, questioned Robertson about his politics. The payment by way of a Certificate was objected to by Gaither. I then took time to investigate the actual extra work performed. In April, Robertson performed as much work as in May. I immediately paid Robertson and directed him to leave the affair to me. I had rewritten the Certificate to apply the deducted wages, but told Robertson to not falsify my voucher by signing it. Then I wrote you to hopefully end the affair. The matter however became more complicated as Robertson's refusal upset the Superintendent. A response from Gaither may be legal, but an unjust one. I loaned Robertson from my money, in gold, without interest to help his

finances. I deferred assaying from Saturday the 30th till Monday to give my assistant, Mr. Terres time to recover from his fever. I intend to resume assaying tomorrow. My Refiner is sick – from the trembling of his hands – often causes him trouble to assist. Rigler has asthma from the effects of acid in his lungs, and my other hand is a blacksmith to add to our inconvenience. Gaither is entirely ignorant with my operations – I do not think he has entered them 6 times since his appointment. You must judge of his competency of what I need in my department. These difficulties have not been of my seeking and have done what I can, but I have no voice in the matter. I wish to retain Robertson, but will rely on your decision on his wages and discharge.

August 1st, - Gaither to Gibbon – this is the first I have heard of your paying Robertson from your salary, and that you are alone responsible for his insubordination. You also say that he would not press for a full salary. Your claim is not a proper one against the government, and I as acting Treasurer could not allow the payment. This disclosure by you presents a new feature to this controversy but does not change my decision. Then you add because of sickness in your department you can't continue your business. You have had Robertson and Erwin idle because of Tenne's sickness and refuse to assay deposits until he recovers. Mr. Rigler will assist you with pleasure.

August 1st, - 1,732 half eagles coined for July.

August 8th, - Patterson to Gibbon – received your letter on Robertson and asked for my decision. I have always felt the Superintendent as the final authority, and without that the mint could not be fully operated. True, the Director could interfere, but I concluded my answer to Gaither with this, "Let it be understood, however, that I do not mean to interfere in this question by my specific instructions, and that I consider it a matter for your discretion." Thus, I see no reason to recede his decision. I am gratified by the apparent improvement in your department under Gaither and hope you both will come to an understanding.

August 12th, - Patterson to Gaither – feel you have acted rightly on Robertson and look forward to your visit.

August 13th, - Strange to Patterson – (in absence of Gaither) – need 12 carboys of acid and a box of cupels.

August 20th, - Gibbon to Patterson – your decision on the Superintendent's powers is sufficient for my guidance in the future. I owe it to Mr. Gaither to state, that heretofore the officers of my appointments have been left entirely under my control. My experience here is that it is impossible to conduct the duties in a satisfactory manner with a reduction to just 2 workmen. I must respectfully protest that thought.

August – 2,105 half eagles coined for the month.

September 16th, - Patterson to Gaither – Melt #11 assayed by Eckfeldt – 899.5 – conforms exactly to Gibbon. The fine silver, sent by Mr. Orr, came here on the 8th, and produced \$649.96. This amount I have placed to your credit. Have shipped per Brig Paul J. Jones for Charleston, 12 carboys nitric acid. Cupels and mufflers sent soon. Since the final year now starts July 1st, I will need an amended need for your expenses.

September 16th, - Patterson to Gaither – received your report for August and 12 carboys for you are in route. An Act of Congress has now designated that July 1st will be the start of the fiscal year and no longer January 1st. Please estimate your fiscal needs accordingly.

September 20th, - Gibbon to Patterson - (Letter noted as Private & Confidential) – Gibbon starts off with complaint about what looks to be depositors demands about wanting their money tomorrow, and could not be put off until later. “Still I must not lead you to suppose that we shall have very serious difficulties to encounter. I think we shall get very pleasantly through with the exercise of a little moderation and forbearance with the officers and workmen employed in the mint. These stories are heard in a public house in the town – as this is the stop of various travelers. The officers find solace in their private rooms away from the lack of privacy elsewhere.” **(Gibbon then goes on a diatribe of concerns of how officers have placed themselves in the mint. His written words in this letter are difficult to decipher, but he does complain about the negro slaves at the end.)** Gibbon has a postscript which says, “I think I may believe that I have fulfilled my promises in the writing may be given you a full satisfaction (?). Be careful in future how you tempt the privacy of a young assayer. I remain your friend.” **(Authors’ note: what is Gibbon’s mental state at this point?)**

September 21st, Patterson to D. W. Stone (Philadelphia Banker) – Mr. Dubois requests me to mention that he sent to you the book which you will have forwarded to Charlotte.

September – 2,991 quarter eagles struck for the month.

October 7th, - Gaither to Patterson – operations for the month of September will see that bullion received during the month was small because of the extreme unhealthiness of the mining region – number of cases of fever. Have received yours of the 16th, but was late in responding because I was detained a few days longer with my family – because of indisposition of one of my children. Estimates for expenses follow for the half year ending 30 June 1843 and for the year ending 30 June 1844. To the half year is \$4,7550 – for the year ending - \$11,000. My report for September shows a small

amount of bullion received, which is owing to the for-mentioned extreme unhealthiness of the mining region – all in consequence of fever. I think the present month will be large – already received six or seven thousand dollars worth of bullion.

October 15th, Patterson to Gaither – received your September report and Melt #12 is 900.7 fine. Your articles ordered will be sent by the next vessel – a day or two. Your estimate for 1843-44 are very satisfactory.

October -1,844 half eagles coined this month.

November 4th, - Gaither to Patterson – showing a large increase of operations over the two preceding months. Nothing has occurred to impede operations except for the sickness of the hands, but we were able with those who are well to accommodate the depositors desiring coin. All deposits have been made and the Assayer has shown a disposition to be accommodating and pleasant.

November 23rd, Patterson to Gaither – receipt of your October report and Melt #13 is at 899. Hope all is recovered there from sickness.

November – 2,326 half eagles coined this month.

December 5th, - Gaither to Patterson – **please send one half and quarter eagle dies for the coming year.** Also a list of required material for Gibbon. The new apparatus for the refining furnaces are not adapted to their size and cannot be fitted without taking down the furnace, but Gibbon does not know of a workman capable. The fire clay tiles sent have been seriously injured by coinage. Require the iron casting and plates asked for some months before.

December 5th, - Gibbon & Gaither to Patterson – November operations sent. Request 2 head dies – one for the half eagle and one for the quarter eagle for the next year and also articles for Gibbon. Mufflers required have not yet arrived – we have no spare ones. New apparatus for Refinery furnaces are not adapted to their size, and cannot be fitted without taking down the furnaces – do not know a workman here to work the matter – fire clay sent here damaged by coinage. Gibbon lists several other articles needed.

December 14th, - Patterson to Gaither – dies will be sent in a few days. We sent, last July 25th, several articles that you requested. Did they not arrive, or is this a new order?

December 19th, - Patterson to Gaither – Melt #14 at 899.5 fine. I send enclosed an order from Mr. John R. Bolton, in favor of Mr. Adam Eckfeldt, for \$145 to be paid out

of moneys that may be due to him from you as Acting Treasurer. I ask you to retain this amount from Mr. Bolton's salary at the end of the year, and I will be obliged to you if you can find some method of transmitting it to Mr. Eckfeldt, through me. It is to pay for money lent to Mr. Bolton during his late visit to Philadelphia.

December 20th, - Gaither to Patterson – I have a planting interest in Marengo County, Alabama and it will be necessary that I should go there in the month of February to transact some business that requires my attention. I don't like leaving my post for that month, and if you think it improper. I would have to go to Mobile, and with the present state of the roads, I expect to need that length of time. I would not go until I am sure this mint will be ready for 1843. I feel that my clerk, Mr. Strange, fully confident to attend to matters here, but need your input.

December 27th, - Patterson to Gaither – I will allow your leave of 4 weeks, and feel confident that Mr. Strange is an appropriate temporary replacement for your absence.

December 27th, - Gaither to Patterson – have asked Gibbon about the articles sent and he said that the mufflers and cupels have not been received and that the other articles were ordered in anticipation. I will write to Charleston to inquire but the mufflers and cupels are needed ASAP, for we fear that the order was lost. I would also like one copy of Mr. Eckfeldt's recent work upon the different coins for my own private use.

December 31st, - Gibbon to Gaither – have received for the 1842 year 15,477,057 ounces of bullion and have returned in ingots for coinage 15,430,150 ounces. Then Gibbon notes his figures for sweeps, etc. He added that the roof is still leaking over his departments and part of the ceiling has fallen in the Refinery, and more threatens to fall. Wooden ceiling need to seal as soon as possible as very serious results may happen to the workmen. The work required in the Refinery makes it difficult to make repairs immediately, but lumber should be put up immediately. And last, asks for more supplies.

No December coinage report, but it seems 1,913 pieces of the quarter eagle were coined to give the later total of 8,642 presented in the 1850 Charlotte report of coinage. By figuring the month by month coinage total, it is determined that the Mint struck 4994 pieces of the half eagle, and 1913 pieces of the quarter eagle in December of 1842. The total coinage for the year of 1842 matches with the Red Book for the half eagle, but not for the quarter eagle, which is 1,913 pieces short reported in the Red Book. The Charlotte Mint report of November 1850, plus our calculation, by the numbers, has made the previous mintage totals for December added for the half eagle to the November 1842 report as approximately 27,432

pieces (closely matching the Red Book). However, the Red Book does not add the December totals for the quarter eagle, which it says is 6,729 pieces, but with the Charlotte Mint report of November 1850, and our monthly calculations, both in pieces coined monthly and money totaled, the actual figure for the 1842 quarter eagle is 8,642 pieces – a difference of 1,913 pieces than what has been reported in the Red Book.



1842 C half eagle small date. According to Numismatist Douglas Winter this coin is the rarest Charlotte Half Eagle. Picture courtesy of Heritage Auctions

REGISTER of DIES prepared for the

Delivered to the Colner.	Eagle.		Half- eagle.		Quarter- eagle.		Dollar.		Half- dollar.		Quarter- dollar.		Dime.		Half- dime.		Total
	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	Head.	Tail.	
<i>Mailed at Phil.</i>																	
1839. Jan. 10	-	-	-	-	2												
May 3	-	-	-	-	2												
" "			1	1													
1840. Jan. 24			2	2													
Feb. 5					2	2											
" Dec. 30			1		1												
1841. Feb. 18				1	1	2											
19			1	1													
" Dec. 22			1		1												
1842. March 11			1		1												
" Dec. 23			1		1												
			8	5	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Defunct 1839-43-			10	5	11	9	Per letters rec'd { Feb. 14, 1840 - Feb. 5, 1842 } { Jan. 25, 1841 - Jan. 23, 1843 } { Jan. 24, 1844 }										25

It will be seen above that the number of dies defunct exceeds the number recorded. This results from the fact that dies were sent in 1838 of which there is no record. -

The last report of Defunct (rec'd Jan. 24, 1844, states that the following dies were received for use in 1844:

	1	2	to which add dies sent for 1844														
1843. Dec. 23			1	1													
25			1	1													
1844. Jan. 12					1	1											
13			1	1													
15					1	1											
16			1	1													
			3	4	3	5											

My report has been rec'd of the destruction of these dies, other than the report of the entire destruction of the dies of 1844, Jan. 24, 1844.

Dies sent to Charlotte January 1839 to December 1842

The Year of 1843

Counterfeit coin, Gaither controversy, and change of Superintendent

January 6th, 1843 – Gaither to Patterson – pleased to say that we received during 1842 - \$174,409 in bullion and coined \$159,005. More than received and coined than the previous 3 years. The future looks even better. Have been trying for more economy by dispersing with one workman's service and the Porter saving for the year \$942. I may make this permanent. **Have received 2 head dies – one for the half eagle, and one for the quarter eagle.**

January 10th, 1843 – Gaither to Patterson – per your instructions, I have sent one of the coins reserved for the annual assay to the Secretary of the Treasury – and then forward to you. I have divided the coins reserved for each melt, and sent half of each, so that either package is received to test the correctness of our coin from each melt. The coin from Melt #1 of quarter eagles were defective and not issued to M/R.

January 16th, - Gaither to Patterson – problems with an accounting by Gibbon about the wastage in his department. The letter explains at some length (Entry 11, 1843, page 132). Also, **Gaither reports that 2 half eagle heads, 2 quarter eagle heads and 2 quarter tails defaced.**

January 23rd, - Patterson to Gaither -your melt #16 was 898 fineness. Under present circumstances may be received, and within limits, but no such metal should be made into coin. At this mint, we never allow it. Both the above melts were reported by Dr. Gibbon on thousand fine than our Assayer found them, on double assay. Ask for your attention to this circumstance. P.S. - Found at the Dahlonega mint that the duties of the Assayer and Coiner are very unequal, and it has been proposed that the making of ingots should be transferred to the Coiner. This is desirable on another account, mainly that it can (?) the system of checks, and would render the unification of your ingot melts at this mint unnecessary. I am for both reasons, in favor of the proposed change, and are disposed to urge upon Congress the necessary alteration of the law. What are your views?

January 30th, - Gaither to Patterson – regret that the melt of #16 was found to be upon the extreme limits of the law. No coins were issued from that melt, and upon the request of Gibbon, I returned them (coin or ingots?) and have them recoinced. Please

remove the assay coins from that melt. You say that at the Dahlonega mint that the duties of the Assayer and Coiner are very unequal- and propose that the working of ingots should be by the Coiner. Same inequalities exist here and the proposal to do that would work here and would provide a good check between the officers. I may require a furnace built for the Coiner, and since this proposal has its advantages, it has my approval, and hopefully yours.

January – no coinage this month.

February 9th, - Patterson to Gaither – mentions a letter from Gibbon to Eckfeldt that the coins in question (coins were made from that questionable melt?) are not well executed but should still go into circulation. This circumstance reminded him that a friend of his heard that a well known gentleman when paying a tab at a barkeep in Boston, had his quarter eagles from your mint questioned. When the barkeep bit them they broke in half. The quarter eagles came to us for authentication and proven legit. We still have the broken halves of one and have no hesitation in saying that the metal was not fit for coinage. Your officers should not issue gold this hard or brittle. Patterson agreed that the proposal for the Assayer and Coiner should be pursued further, but also include refining, toughening and parting. All this except assaying. But the important question is the competency of the Coiner for these duties. In am aware that Bolton has no knowledge of chemistry – and no M/R practice. Let me know if Bolton is willing to learn the duties, so that I can present this to Congress.

February 18th, - Strange (Gaither is visiting his family) to Patterson – Bolton says yes he has no knowledge of chemistry and very little of M/R, but would be willing to learn and do the duties.

February 24th, - Patterson to Gaither – disturbed at the 2nd time presented by the Coiner of his amount of waste. Wastage of the Coiner here for the past year was 0.327, at Dahlonega 0.37, at New Orleans 1 – but that 1 number was sufficiently explained. Are the persons in employ of Bolton ones of trust? Do you not have other accounting, otherwise again payment for the excess loss will have to come out of his salary.

February 28th, Gaither to Patterson – reports Bolton agreement to take on the added duties if given by law, though I doubt success of his efforts. Suggest that he might learn from the assistance of Refiner Mr. Terres in the Refining department. Believe the proposed changes are satisfactory, even if it means in the necessity of change of officers. Will address the problem of the quarter eagles. Notice that I have not taken my leave to

Alabama, because I believe that there is an under current at work to remove me from office. But this may not surprise you since there have been difficulties I had to face here. I have decided to let my private interests in Alabama suffer and stay at my post. Gibbon has informed me that black lead pots just received are inferior, 12 of which were broken, before they reached here, and 3 have broken here in the melting of ingots. Please send more.

February – 2,333 half eagles coined for the month.

March 7th, - Gaither to Patterson – it was rumored here that I would be replaced but I have no confirmation of that but I am searching. Waiting for something tangible so I can go to Washington to meet with the President.

March 11th, - Secretary of the Treasury to Patterson – In a communication addressed to the President and by him to me, Gaither is charged that he resides with his family, about 60 miles from Charlotte. Make the necessary inquiries into this matter and if this incurs problems with mint operations.

March 13th, - Patterson to John C. Spencer (Secretary of the Treasury) – I will make immediate inquiries into the truth of this matter. But let me point out that I am aware that he visits his family at times, but he always responds to my letters on time. He is a vigilant officer, and has his own residence in Charlotte and is not neglect of his duties.

March 13th, - Patterson to Gaither – a letter attached will show you the form which has the charge against you and an application has been made for your removal. Glad that you want to come to Washington and it is the course which I hope will be to your advantage. After you have read the accusations, please send me your response.

March 14th, - Gaither to Patterson – have received a copy of the Act you propose concerning the duties of the Coiner and M/R. I hope it will pass so that I can implement it by the end of the month.

March 22nd, - James W. Osborn (citizen of Charlotte) to Gaither – This letter is in support of you as an exemplary citizen of Berks County, and we know that you do your duties at the mint well. Others have signed this document in your support. Jos. H. Wilson, C. J. Fox, Wm Davidson, and James G. Johnson.

March 24th, - Strange and Bolton to Gaither – we support the Superintendent and do not feel his absences have affected operations. In fact, we have received more bullion

than ever. Much of that bullion could have been gone to Bechtler, but through your concern and abilities, and even the miners, now feel confident in our institution. (Authors' note: Notice here that Gibbon did not sign this letter written in support of Gaither)

March 24th, - Strange to Patterson – sends a yearly list of contingency expenses from 1837 until date. Provides also the amount of bullion received yearly and the dollar amount of coinage yearly. (This is in Entry 11, 1843, page 189)

March 24th, - Gaither to Patterson – pleased that the Secretary and President have given me the opportunity to answer this accusation. This is a private and persona malice from someone who may seek my office. This malice produces false information to the President, and probably from not a depositor or transaction with this mint. I came into this office 18 August 1841 and have been a resident of Charlotte since and brought my family here when the health of this place would permit. My family remained here the Fall, Winter, and part of the Spring, then they returned to our former residence in Morgantown – since my wife prefers to be with her family and friends during that time. I have continued to reside in Charlotte and made occasional visits to my family except in the months of August and September when I am pretty generally absent, in consequence of the unhealthiness of this place. I made sure that I was still in communication with you through my Clerk. Upon my appointment here, I immediately gave up my professional business and have declined practicing even in the Courts of the County – so I might clear any remark of envy and malice. I cannot conceive any problem when I am absent and my Clerk is fully capable, and has your permission, to act in my stead. Morgantown sits in the middle of the gold region, and miners have come to me there with deposits which I have kindly brought back to the mint and eventually paid them back in coin. I have their trust and the Bank of Morgantown's as well. I have brought in upwards of 175,000 dollars of bullion and by doing so I have restored confidence in our institution. I have had no other charges against me. You are aware that I have had some difficulties with my officers, but willing to support y administration here. I include all the supportive letters from gentlemen of high character and will send more in a short time when merchant and depositors here return from Charleston. I will go immediately to Morgantown to send you more from there to cement my integrity.

March 31st, - Gibbon to Patterson – Robertson was discharged in consequence of declining, by my directions, to sign a receipt differing from the Certification one. No communication from the Superintendent was forthcoming on this. No discussion how

his removal would effect our operations for he was a good worker. It caused even more of a problem when other workers were sick. Robertson freely earned his wages, and I paid \$58.50 from my own salary to compensate for that taken from him. I will need your further opinion and decision on this.

March – 3,805 half eagles struck.

April 1st, - Gaither to Patterson – have received additional statements of support from the citizens of Morgantown. One support letter stated that confidence has been restored in the Charlotte Mint since Mr. Gaither's appointment. "The officers of the Bank, Miners, Merchants and all classes have entire confidence in Mr. G's integrity and ability". Last that his occasional visits to the mining districts have been to great advantage both to miners and the mint. Deposits that were formerly going to Bechtler's are now going to the mint. And, this letter was signed by 12 individuals fro this community of Morgantown.

April 4th, - Gaither to Patterson – another letter of support from Linconton, N. C. with 6 more endorsements from miners and merchants. Gaither adds that he wishes to know who his complainant is.

April 4th, - Gaither to Patterson – due to the recent Act of Congress, we have been able to put into operation transferring the duties of M/R to the Coiner. In doing so, things have been impeded, but to no great extent, and in time we will have prompt assays. I have put one workman in the service of the Coiner, and the Coiner now as acting M/R. I fear the arrangement will have an unequal distribution of labor among them, for the one under the Assayer would be idle 2 thirds of his time, and the others some time pressed for labor. I suggest to place all the hands under the Coiner M/R upon perfect equality, and require each of them to work in each department. I will also give authority to the Assayer to request help from each workman when required. I await your suggestions.

April 5th, - Gaither to Patterson – the M/R Bolton has just made his first melt of gold ingots which the Assayer reports at 900 fine. I enclose this melt to confirm its fineness and weight by you, which is important of course for his first melt. With this, the new M/R has a new accuracy test on the melt and this way he will know that the metals delivered to him are really worth their reported value. This the Assayer objected to – but I will not comment further on his conduct, but leave you with the facts. I am glad the recent Congress Act has relieved us from dealing with this officer, "for he appears not to know his true position in the mint, nor the respect that is due to the other officers."

April 5th, - Patterson to Spencer (Secretary of the Treasury) – sends all correspondence from Gaither and lists 7 reasons why Gaither should be retained. “To those statements I will mainly add that y constant communication with Col Gaither has led me to the conviction that he is an attentive, vigilant, and able officer, and that his duties are faithfully performed.

April 5th, - another support letter for Gaither with 5 signatures.

April 7th, - Patterson to Gaither – Melt #3 is at 900.2. We sent you 5 carboys of nitric acid on the 30th.

April 10th, - Patterson to Gaither – glad that the new operations have been implemented successfully. I am anxious that peace and good will should reign in your mint and it was to prevent the possibility of collision with the Assayer. I see that there is force in your remarks respecting the employment of Terres, whose time cannot be sufficiently occupied in merely assisting the Assayer. I have no doubt that Gibbon will consent to the arrangement which you propose.

April 13th, - Patterson to Gaither – I think that Gibbon was wrong in throwing any difficulty in the way, when you show the desire to have a test assay of the first melt by Bolton. True, all assay slips belong to the M/R account, but difficulty may be avoided by crediting him with the weight of any assay slip sent on to this mint.

April 14th, - Gaither to Patterson – (this letter sent too soon for Patterson’s April 13th reply – but Gaither does add something new) – Gaither had just learned that there is a secret move in a remote portion of the County to get Certificates from obscure individuals – have occasionally made deposits in the mint, “that I have not been in the mint, when they have made their deposits.” This is a ruse proceeding I believe from a certain clique in the village, who will not stop at anything. I may frequently occur that I never see deposits when my Clerk handles many transactions.

April 19th, - Patterson to Gibbon – I have already presented my opinion of the matter of Robertson’s wages. I do not wish to interfere with any instructions and is a matter for your discretion. (He wrote this to Supt Gaither and is now sharing it with Gibbon) The Superintendent has the right to do so, and I refer him to you.

April – struck 3,852 half eagles and 2,988 quarter eagles this month.

May 2nd, - Gaither to Patterson – sent operations for April. Said that he was quite proud with Bolton’s performance and think he will continue to do well. **He wishes one**

pair of quarter eagle dies to replace those cracking and sends a list of items he needs as M/R. (Sent to Secretary of the Treasury on May 9th to send to Charlotte)

May 22nd, - Spencer to Patterson – Green Washington Caldwell is to replace Gaither at Charlotte – and was appointed by the President.

May 26th, - Gaither to Patterson – **received the pair of quarter eagle dies**. Need 12 carboys of nitric acid.

May 31st, - Patterson to Gaither – per orders from the Treasury, increase the coinage of quarter eagles and diminish that of the half eagle. I have learned of Caldwell's appointment but I know nothing of specifics.

May – 7,388 half eagles coined this month.

June 2nd, - Gaither to Patterson – aware of my dismissal and in my last communication to you, that I found myself to have a profound respect, great character and a private gentleman with you. I shall return to Morgantown and be happy of my times of service.

June 11th, - Gibbon to Patterson – need a carboy of acid ASAP. Gaither declined to forward the order since he has been replaced, and the new one has not yet arrived.

June 14th, - Gaither to Patterson – I thought that our communications were ceased, but Mr. Terres induced me to write again. During the month of May, Terres was absent from the mint on a visit to your city and I refused to pay his wages for that month. He is dissatisfied with my decision and wishes me to have the question, in this situation, that my decision is asking for your decision on it. As I have been compelled to act upon this matter, after knowing I was to be suspended, and improper motives might be assigned my cause, I have resolved to report the facts to you and have the question open, but I must not be understood as changing in reasoning y original determination, so far as my opinion is involved.

June 16th, - Green W. Caldwell (new Charlotte Mint Superintendent) to Patterson - Yesterday I received possession of all the precious metals and public property belonging to the Mint.

June 23rd, - Caldwell to Patterson – some of the orders of my predecessor for materials have not been completed, but to what extent I am unaware. I would suggest the orders stay as they are and send us the following materials (a long list followed).

June – 2,819 half eagles and 5,736 quarter eagles coined this month.

July 1st – Patterson to Caldwell – my clerk Dunning reports that the 12 carboys of nitric acid ordered have been sent and 2 of sulphuric acid. The other articles have been ordered already as well – and some are ready for shipment.

July – 6,570 quarter eagles coined for the month.

August 2nd, - Caldwell to Patterson – Received directive per Secretary to stress striking of quarter eagles. We have received the 14 carboys, but are completely out of pure acids for assays – not having enough for a single assay. Please ship ASAP as we are at a standstill, not being able to assay deposits, nor ingots were prepared for coinage.

August 7th, - Caldwell to Patterson – a local merchant, a Mr. Springs, has been kind enough to take charge of some of the silver bullion of the mint for the purpose of assaying and being returned in coin. I have sent 893 ounces which is all that could be spared, assaying at 996 fine, making 989 ounces and value of \$1,150.93. Please reimburse him in dimes, half dimes, and quarter dollars, say \$500 in dimes, \$500 in dollars (?), half dimes and the balance of \$150 in quarter dollars.

August – 2,089 quarter eagles, 4,667 half eagles coined this month.

September 4th, - Strange to Patterson – Caldwell has been very sick for the past month, and is too weak to attend to business. We have received all the articles requested except for 3 large stone ware precipitating jars, one cask of black lead pot covers, a section of garden hose. Also request 12 carboys of nitric acid and 300 lbs of zinc.

September 11th, - Patterson to Caldwell – sorry to hear of your sickness – hope when this reaches you that you are feeling better. Mr. Dunning, my Clerk, is away from the city for a few days but we will attend to your requests immediately after his return.

September 25th, - Reuben Perry (contractor during construction of the Charlotte Mint) to Patterson – this concerns the balance of award not given for part of its construction. There was difficulty in getting suitable rock for the projection of the cornice as represented by Mr. Strikland. The rock had been splitting up so it was useless. As to cutting the rock, three foot long could not be had, laid on a brick wall to project one foot clear of the bed mole, with out being made straight and to be jointed in a rough manner at least. Considered this much to be indispensable. We were acting under the directions of your Superintendent at the time who said that we were doing it right and to continue. And, according to Mr. McComb that he judged it is built precisely according to the model and drawings furnished and best materials the nature of the Country would admit of. Mr. Peale also said it was built to the letter. I am at a loss that our payment was

approved and not paid after approval to pay the amount. We are legally and justly entitled to the award. We built the mint at a reduced price and I did not make one dollar on the job. Hope this will convince you that I ought not be kept from the money. By your acceptance, it will save a trip to Washington to state my case.

October 3rd, - Strange to Patterson – Caldwell still very sick, and still weak. Here enclosed is our report for the month. **On September 7th, 2,697 half eagles – and on September 28th, 2,468 half eagles struck.**

October 7th, - Caldwell to Patterson – owing to my very severe attack of fever, for what I am slowly recovering, I have been unable to reply at an earlier day. I do not think I can with a due regard for efficiency, ask for a less appropriations, made for the current year. Yes, I have 4 workmen, but we need five. Therefore, after his (Caldwell's) breakdown of the various amounts, he still put in the same \$11,000 for the requested appropriation.

October 13th, - Patterson to Caldwell – glad to hear you are better. 6 carboys are on their way, and other articles will be on their way shortly. Your estimates for appropriation are approved.

October – 3,435 quarter eagles and 2,655 half eagles coined for the month.

November 1st, - Strange to Patterson – monthly report sent. Gibbon has several requests for equipment. The state of Caldwell's health has caused some delay, but he wishes to emphasize that a new roof should be placed before the rainy season. Caldwell's health is still precarious, but to avoid any further delay he wants to inform you that the leak from the roof is very bad and has made some of the apartments uninhabitable. The Refinery, Press Room, and the Assayer's office inundated by rain, dropping through the roof fitting brackets – undermining the walls of the building. He wants a shingle roof to replace the zinc. Said the materials and workmanship can be had here. A carpenter here has estimated the roof work would cost 5 to 600 dollars. But since copper is suggested for the gullies the cost would approach \$1,000. Request approval for this \$1,000 appropriation.

November – 6,790 half eagles struck for the month.

December 1st. - Caldwell to Patterson – monthly report. I attribute my sickness, and that of my whole family to the dampness of the building caused by the defective roof. It leaks so badly that I have had to abandon the upper rooms entirely, and after the rain last night – they were flooded. I repeat the need of a shingle roof mentioned by Mr.

Strange – zinc will not do. Let me know about the shingles for I could get workmen immediately upon it, and would wait for the appropriation for it. If this is not done quickly, the walls will not be able to support themselves. The Assayer needs several items ASAP, and the pot covers are too small. 2 carboys of nitric acid are required sooner as well. **The Coiner requests two pair of dies for the coming year – one pair each of quarter and half eagle.**

December 6th, - Patterson to Caldwell – glad your health is restored. I approve your shingle roof instead of the zinc which has caused you annoyance. I have not put this expense into my estimates for you because it would not be available in time. I propose a special appropriation should be asked for and will join you on this. I will contact your representative in Congress, and you can write the Committee of Ways and Means with your reasons. I have ordered the pair of dies for you and they will be sent to you in good time – hope for your January operations. Your items are being worked on to be sent, and have had great difficulty in finding anyone to make the stone jars – waiting to hear from the manufacturer.

December 29th, - Caldwell to Patterson – not having yet received Patterson's letter of the 9th, Caldwell requests the necessity of approval for the shingle roof. If the building isn't corrected soon, we may have to cease operations in all the working rooms – because the rains could cause walls to fall, damaging machinery and endangering the workers. Could you have 650 feet of sheet copper sent for the gutters and ballies or vallies (?). I have already made a contract for the repair of the roof – but they will wait for payment.

December – 4,803 half eagles and 5,246 quarter eagles coined this month.



1843 C Quarter Eagle small date - Winters says that this is the rarest Charlotte quarter eagle - Courtesy Heritage

The Year of 1844

Fire completely destroys the Charlotte Mint

January 5th, 1844 – Caldwell to Patterson – (misfiled letter or wrongly dated letter – letter says 1843 when it should be 1844) Letter says: **Monthly report for December 1843. Reported a bullion deposit of \$272,063.72 and coinage of \$287,005 for the year of 1843, an increase of bullion from last year of \$100,000 and of coinage \$128,000.**

January 6th, - Patterson to Caldwell – **we sent you on December 23rd, through the Treasury, box #1 containing 1 pair quarter eagle dies, and on the 25th box #2 with 1 pair of half eagle dies. We have now ready, sending in successive mails, following dies: Box #3 – 1 pair of quarter eagle; box #4 – 1 pair half eagle; box #5 – 1 pair quarter eagle and box #6 – 1 pair of half eagle.** Copper you ordered will be sent shortly. Also, send without delay, through the Secretary, the coins reserved for assay of last year's coinage.

January 19th, - Caldwell to Patterson – **boxes #1 and #2 of dies received. Have caused to be defaced of half eagle head, 2- quarter eagles heads, and 2 quarter eagle tails of last year – leaving 1 quarter eagle tail, and 2 half eagle tails as being fit for use.**

January 24th, - Caldwell to Patterson – this morning received 4 boxes containing 2 pairs of half eagle and 2 pairs of quarter eagle dies, which completes by what you have said you sent. In looking over past paper, I see that you have reported excessive wastage in the Coiner's department for 1842, and it is with regret that the same wastage has occurred for the last year, not only in the Coiner's, but M/R as well. This wastage cannot be necessary in operations of coining, and must be because of dishonesty – there can be no other solution. Caldwell makes no further effort at explanation, neither does he doubt the honesty of his workmen. Under these circumstances, Caldwell says that he deems it my duty to leave this account open and await your intentions.

January – no coinage.

February 2nd, - Caldwell to Patterson – monthly report for January. A small quantity of bullion received, and no coinage for January. 902,200 ounces of ingots which will be coined this afternoon or tomorrow morning. On November 1st, I ordered 2

carboys of pure nitric acid for assaying and they have not arrived. Maybe enough left for just a dozen assays.

February 7th, - Patterson to Caldwell – I am disturbed about Bolton's account of wastage. There is no question of the first step taken – must be paid by him out of his won funds or detracted from his 1st salary. It now becomes my duty to lay the whole state of the case before the Department and open it for action. I will need more information from you. Who are the workmen in the M/R as were employed by Dr. Gibbon? Was this department superintended by Bolton, personally or carefully? Did he give the same attention as he did as Coiner? Is Bolton frequently absent? Does he know all the time the status of his accounts? Bolton has said before to your predecessor that he trusts his workmen. Do you? Does Bolton have debt? I know that when he was here, his expenses exceeded his income. We must not shrink from our responsibilities on this.

February – 1,910 half eagles, struck on the 5th, and 2,120 more of same struck on the 21st.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Patterson – In a response to the wastage problem. There has been delivered to Bolton 6,334 ounces of bullion for separation of 837 ounces have been parted for depositors yielding 375 ounces of silver. The workmen are the same in M/R as was employed by Gibbon. The additions are John Rigler, and John Frazier, who before the transfer of Bolton were under the charge of Bolton. They were all originally from Philadelphia except for Frazier who was raised here and took the place the Blacksmith Alexander Robertson. Bolton gives his personal attention to both departments as much as one to the other. The departments rarely go at the same time, and he is generally with his workmen. As far as keeping memorandum accounts of all transactions – he has kept none at all, and his books have little information as to the state of his accounts. My opinion of the man's private character begins with the feeling that I have no reason to suspect the honesty of any. They have good character, out of doors, none addicted to drink or gambling. Terres is an intelligent and active man and does great work. Andrew Erwin, the melter, is industrious and hard working – have no doubt of his honesty. John Rigler is a nephew of Bolton – no reason to suspect him, though he is a bit careless in his work. John Frazier – good character. As to Bolton – he obtained a certificate of Bankruptcy – he always has been since here, hard pressed and is sorry. His family is large and very extravagant. He has a strange temperament – he seems to be destitute of proper sensibility – cold, silent and indifferent over things touching his private character. I have been unable to get any explanation from him, upon this subject, he manifests but little concern about it. I presume you know his character already. I have adopted a rule requiring him to settle every month, make an exhibition of the metal, in his hands, and to keep memo accounts. His report of the morning show the difference in the accountability – and the amount of wastage was next to nothing for the last month.

Thus, it seems a matter of negligence has been the problem, and that he will therefore discharge his duties with more care and diligence. I now leave this matter with you. -----The articles stated in your 17th letter have been received, but request that the carboys be marked especially for the Assayer if they are pure acid.

March 6th, - Patterson to Caldwell – as far as Bolton's situation, I will write of it another time. But I cannot help but be surprised that Gibbon should have put a stop to operations and to return a portion of the bullion to depositors, because he was not satisfied with the purity of the acid. It is of slight importance whether the acid was absolute purity or not. The means of purifying it could be done by Gibbon. Why did he not make use? A nitrate of silver applied would suffice. The act of purification should be constantly done by your Assayer. As an example, when the Dahlonga mint first went into operation, one carboy of pure nitric acid was sent to it, and that is still the only one. To your mint there have been 10 carboys sent costing together \$500. "In this view of this whole matter, I am sorry to find myself impelled to the conclusion, that Dr. Gibbon is responsible for all the inconvenience that has arisen at your mint, from the interruption in the assays." If Gibbon is without a retort, receiver, etc. (required for distillation), let me know and the necessary apparatus will be sent.

March 15th, - Gibbon to Patterson – as Assayer here the means of nitric acid distillation have never been at my command. Pure acids have always been shipped to us, but needed glass tubes never were. Before I left Philadelphia changes were made in the process of assaying gold. The Chief Assayer there said that, "I must always use pure acid in assaying by the new process." The economy in acids used at other mints was not used here. From the original distribution of the apartments, I have no room fitted for a laboratory. The recently arrived unmarked carboys of acid created a problem with not knowing if any were pure. Then some carboys were not properly marked for the Refinery. I had samples taken from them. (Gibbon then goes into a very technical aspect of explanation). Gibbon felt the carboys were also chafed in the carriage shipment. The last assays were made with old acid and reported on the 15th of February. All the deposits made since that time have now been assayed. I did not know of any complaint of delay, what appears unavoidable. I feel conscious of no neglect of duty, nor do I think I am entitled to responsibilities in matters over which I have no control.

April 6th, - Patterson to Caldwell – we have a distilling apparatus under construction for you. I am now aware of advising some system for keeping an account of the various transactions of your Coiner. A form is enclosed. The form allows the Coiner to keep an account of his own doings, or to judge any loss. I hope to soon send one also to M/R.

April 17th, - Caldwell to Patterson – the accounting system for Bolton looks to be efficient. I should give an immediate notice of any shortage, so that he may be aware of any defalcation. I am pleased with operations of the Coiner and M/R. The M/R asks for certain supplies – repeated here by Caldwell.

April – on the 3rd – 2,139 half eagles, on the 17th, - 2,741 half eagles, and on the 30th, - 3,975 quarter eagles total struck for the month.

May 13th, - Patterson to Caldwell – been away from the city but my Clerk Dunning will be taking care of your article needs. Your low average of deposits gives warily of so constant a resort to the process of parting, that your large consumption of acid is not to be avoided. I see now the reason it is excessive. At the Dahlonga mint scarcely any parting is necessary – average fineness is 950. Happy to hear that wastage has dropped.

May 31st, Caldwell to Patterson – it is necessary to contact Ways and Means for passing the appropriation of \$1,000 for the roof – it is nearly finished. If it is not passed in this session, than the delay in payment will put a burden on the contractor, for he is a poor man.

May – 3,522 quarter eagles, and 2,877 half eagles.

June 6th, - Patterson to Caldwell – In January, I sent to the Department the \$1,000 for the roof and explained its necessity. I talked to some members of the Committee of Ways and Means and would report it to the House. I am confident of it passing. “I have no faith in any of the paints or cement recommended for the protection of shingle roofs from fire. Perhaps it might be advisable to place a covering of zinc three or four feet around your chimneys, over the shingles. This is sometimes done here.” (Authors’ note: In just over a month, that roof will be challenged)

June 24th, - Patterson to Caldwell – items ordered are on their way. However, we have had great difficulty in getting the stone jars made, which has caused delay. Jars are now being made smaller for separating.

June – 2,550 half eagles, and 2,346 more of same struck for the month.

July 3rd, - Strange to Patterson – Caldwell’s health has been indifferent during the Spring, so he has made short trips to the mountains to recuperate. I send the report for June. Assume that Caldwell will be back in week or 10 days.

THE DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT THE CHARLOTTE MINT OF JULY 27TH, 1844, AND THE RECOVERY

Charlotte N.C. 27 July 1844

Sir

The United States Branch Mint in this place was entirely consumed by fire this morning. It was discovered between 3 & 6 o'clock in the upper rooms of the Coining department advanced so rapidly that much damage has been done to the coining machinery as well as to the building. No fires have been made by the workmen for a week past when the conflagration originated - a committee of the citizens are now investigating its cause.

The roof - floors - wooden fixtures are generally consumed - the walls are tottering & falling. Much private property as books papers clothing & other matters belonging to the Superintendent and myself has been consumed. The workmen are employed in protecting the public property.

The Bullion & coin were with drawn & deposited in the State Branch Bank together with the Treasurers Books.

This is all I can write at present

I am very respectfully
J. H. Gibbon

Letter written by Assayer Gibbon to Patterson just after the fire

July 27th, 1844 (Saturday) – Gibbon to Patterson – A fire has occurred that has entirely consumed the Mint, and was discovered between 3 & 6 o'clock AM in the upper rooms of the Coining Department. It advanced so rapidly that much damage has been done to the machinery as to the building. No fires have been made by workmen for a week past, where the fire originated. A local committee is now investigating. The roof

floors, wooden fixtures are generally consumed. The walls are teetering and falling. Much private property and paperwork of the Mint has been consumed. The workmen are employed in protecting the public property. The bullion and coin is now deposited in the State Bank together with the Treasurer's Booty (?). This is all I can write at present.

July – before the fire, the Charlotte Mint was able to strike 3,126 half eagles, and 4,125 quarter eagles up to July 26th.

The Fire Investigation from the *Jeffersonian* newspaper, dated September 13th, 1844 from Charlotte is repeated here in part:

“How did the fire get among the joists and laths is the next question. The suggestion that there might have been a combustion of some acid is answered by the proof that there was no acid in the building excepting a small quantity of muriatic acid which was not near either of the three places on fire, and particularly that there was no acid in the garret.

The suggestion that the fire might have been communicated from the chimney of the engine which goes through the garret, near where the fire started – is answered by the proof that the engine had not been used for ten days – there was no fire used about the Mint for ten days before: The suggestion that the fire might have been negligently dropped from a segar (sic) by some students who were at the Mint about 2 o'clock on the evening before, and went up on the roof by a door which opened into the garret, then through a trap door in the roof, passing near where the fire started, is answered, first, because it is not proven that any of them had a segar, second, the testimony of Lentile, who swore he was working with Mr. Taylor fixing the cornice of the mint – that some two hours after the students left, wanting nails he went on the roof, opened the trap door, went down through the garret to the other door which he found fastened, and came back and descended the ladder which was used on the outside: that afterwards about sundown, he again went into the garret through the trap door, put away some tools, closed the trap door, and came down the ladder – that on neither occasion did he discover any fire in the garret, and if there had been any, he must have seen or smelt it, particularly if it had been near the Coiner's room, for he passed right over it. There being no way to account for the fire as the effect of accident or negligence, my inference is, that it was the act of an incendiary.

It being also proven, that on the evening before, all the doors of the building were locked, and that they were all found locked on the next morning when the alarm of fire was given, and that no person slept in the house that night, it seems clear that the incendiary ascended the ladder, got on the roof, raised the trap door, and went down into the garret.”

This same newspaper report then went into the investigation of the man Calvin, who had first been a primary suspect. But the evidence and his alibis proved enough that he was not the one who might have caused the fire.

Because of the misfiling of the records by the Mint staff at this point, any examination of the records here is to have patience on where the consecutive dates are at. The following is the records repeated again chronologically.

July 28th, - Caldwell to Patterson – pretty much a repeat of the fire incident and the results of same repeated by his officers. (His officers' letters are dated later – September 21st – and were probably put together earlier until its release on that later date) In addition here in this 28th letter, Caldwell reported that the side walls are still standing, but are tottering. All the books, papers, Coin and bullion were saved. Almost all my private property was destroyed – most of the valuable furniture belonging to the mint was saved. The out buildings have been preserved.

August 7th, - Caldwell to Patterson – a more thorough report of the damage to the building. Added that Col. Gaither's servant boy, Calvin, was apprehended under suspicion of starting the fire. An investigation will follow.

August 12th, - Patterson to George M. Bibb (Secretary of the Treasury) – an update on the condition of Charlotte.

August 13th, - Caldwell to Patterson – the investigation of Calvin turns out this way, "Upon investigation before the Judge, the State Witnesses who were principally slaves, told so contradictory and unsatisfactory a story that the Judge was compelled to discharge him. The evidence on that investigation satisfied the Judge that the origin of the fire was the effect of design and not of accident." Caldwell added this, "I am now satisfied, that my private apartments were robbed previous to the fire to conceal the robbery. I was at my Mother's in Lincoln County about 14 miles from town and had left my apartments occupied by a person named Todd, who promised me he would sleep there each night during my absence, but despite my confidence that he would do so, he sadly neglected the truth I had in him. The facts will fully appear in the Judge's opinion which will be forwarded to you. I have not ceased my exertions to find the perpetrator or perpetrators.

August 16th, - James C. Smyth to Patterson – relates his observations about the destruction after the fire. He was with a Mr. Meigs who came to make a deposit of gold – unawares. Mr. Meigs resides in the same town as Gaither (former Charlotte Supt.)

1. The shingling of the roof was in progress at the time, and Mr. Todd was the carpenter. **(Authors' note: we have learned Mr. Todd's full name to be W. A. Todd, living in Charlotte)**

He had agreed to sleep in the building, but was not there the night of the fire. No one was reported to be there. Gaither's slave, Calvin, was suspected, arrested and faced a Judge. But evidence was lacking and witnesses just about confirmed his alibi.

2. The steam engine to be taken apart, and repairs to be done to see if they can be done at Charlotte.

3. Condition of the shafting.

4. Condition of the rolls.

5. The draw bench.

6. The cutting presses.

6. The milling machine.

7. The coining presses.

Need to examine the condition of the annealing and cleaning furnaces. The pump and tank. Scales and beams. The lathe and tools of every kind. Fitting up of machinery for temporary operations.

(Authors note: This 16th letter is probably from the local investigative authorities.)

August 31st, - George M. Bibb (Secretary of the Treasury) to Patterson – approve of the course suggested to obtain an estimate for repair and have someone go there to do it. Traveling expenses will be paid for.

(Philadelphia foreman George Eckfeldt was sent to Charlotte for the estimates)

September 21st, 1844- Gibbon, Bolton, and Strange to Patterson (?) - this is one letter with 3 synopses to the fire damage to their departments.

1. Gibbon first states that Caldwell is ill and to make things worse, his wife has passed away. Gibbon lists several articles lost in the Assay Department: assay weights for gold; pair of forceps; copper still used to distill water; a sheet of copper; carboy of pure acid. Our public property lost will not exceed \$50. The M/R: copper drainer, two iron wire sieves. Separating department: 2 cedar bates, 3 precipitating jars, 6 large glass jars, 10 stone ware basins, 3 sections of garden hose, 6 two gallon stone ware pitchers, 2 one gallon glass pitchers, 4 siphons, 6 set of copper chains, 12 (?), and 12 pipes, 8 cast iron pans, 1 large strainer, 4 copper pans, and 2 copper tea kettles. Coining Department: 1 copper roaster, 2 copper pans, 1 can pan for waxing strips, 6 iron wire sieves, 4 pair of scales for adjusting room – one large and 3 small. Strange wrote: Caldwell says that rebuilding the Mint should be but one story and a half, as to have all the operations on the 1st floor and basement stories. Dispense with the Superintendent's family apartments. He thinks economy here as well as for the comfort and convenience in minting, besides the protection. Caldwell desires no rooms in the building, save his officers as a sleeping room. As to a temporary establishment, it will depend on Mr. Eckfeldt's determination

on the state of the machinery. After Caldwell gets estimates for rebuilding, he will send them for your opinion.

September 27th, - George Eckfeldt (Philadelphia Mint foreman of the coining department there now on the Charlotte site) to Patterson – A list of the damaged and retained machinery:

1. Engine and shafting can be repaired
2. Hinges for the shafting destroyed.
3. The rollers can be repaired at minimal cost.
4. Draw bench frame is broken to pieces.
5. Cutting press can be repaired.
6. Milling machine destroyed.
7. Coining presses destroyed.
8. Annealing and drawing furnaces destroyed.
9. Pump and Tank – can't tell because the well is filled with ruins.
10. Machine shop and all tools destroyed.
11. The scales and beams for adjusting are destroyed, but the scale and beams for deposits is saved.
12. Housing for the pointing (?) needs a new stand.
13. The shears can be repaired.
14. Examining the stack – all sound except leaning a little.
15. The building is totally destroyed.

October 19th, - Caldwell to Patterson – estimates for costs for fiscal year 1 July 1845 to 30 June 1846 are for salaries of officers and clerk - \$6,000; Pay of laborers in various departments - \$2,808. Because of the fire, the last appropriation remains unexpended so that amount could go toward rebuilding and labor required.

November 15th, - Cashier of the Bank at Charlotte to Patterson – you will receive a package containing eight parcels of gold bullion and lists where they are from. Asks that they be assayed in Philadelphia and send back the certificates of assay. When the certificates are returned, I will ask for the coin from Philadelphia to disperse to the depositors.

November 23rd, - Gibbon to Patterson – Secretary of the Treasury said yesterday – that if you write him that my presence in Philadelphia had been advantageous of the mint. He would authorize payment of my to and fro from Charlotte to Philadelphia – about \$150.

November 25, - Patterson to Bibb – Gibbon wanted me to write a letter to you about compensation of \$150. However, I have to state that his visit here wasn't without

its advantage to his establishment. He added information by his examination of our manner of doing business, and by his suggestions, they were relative for the rebuilding of the mint.

November 27th, - Caldwell to Patterson – giving you a final report from the officers. And, Congress has contacted me to send them estimates for rebuild, but could not yet without an answer from you on my new building construction. I may visit Washington for a short visit.

December 3rd, - Patterson to Caldwell – agree with you on making rebuilt but one floor, I have raised the basement considerably however. The drawings have been made by Mr. Peale – one for the Secretary, one for me and for you. Approve of your visit to Washington – might be useful. You had cut down the estimate for wages, but have restored it in order that you may have a doorkeeper and a watchman. Mr estimate: Salaries - \$6,000 - \$3,500 wages and contingencies \$1,500 – total \$11,000.

December 13th, - Patterson to Cashier at State Bank – the bullion from Charlotte you sent has been assayed and is close to your estimate. We will send you coin as soon as you request it.

December 14th, - Patterson to Bibb – our final estimate for rebuild is enclosed. Of the main building nothing is left that can be made available, except a portion of the materials and perhaps the old foundation. In the Assay department, and in the Melting room, little injury was done. The separating room – the destruction is more considerable, but all the losses of apparatus and material can be replaced without a resort to any new appropriation. Coiner's department – steam engine slightly injured, and may be put into working order at a small cost. Shafting may be repaired and also the housing and gearing of the rolls. Draw bench is so much injured that a new one is needed. Of the cutting presses, one can be repaired, but the other needs to be replaced. Coining presses are past repair, but one new press will be sufficient. The milling machine and the rolls are destroyed. The machine shop, the lathes and the tools destroyed. For the rebuild – a one story structure could work well, for it would be more directly in view by the officers, and the convenience and safety strengthened. Cost for rebuilding is estimated at \$25,000. New machinery \$10,000 – total for all \$35,000.

Authors' Note: We have done a further, and in depth, investigation into the cause of this fire at Charlotte. An accepted theory was that acid was involved, but the area where the fire started is not a storage space for acids or any other combustible. The area is a small garret area, several feet wide, just below the roof, and underneath a roof trapdoor. The floor of this small space was stucco which fell into the Coiner's department. Accusations against the man Calvin has no basis in fact since he had

been gone from the mint for a year. The trapdoor was not locked because of the roof work, and plans were to repair the supporting bolt for it after the roof work was done. So Calvin, if he had been the perpetrator, would not have known of this unlocked trap door. So, our theory is that maybe the contractor was a smoker, and dropped some ashes into this small area and whatever roofing material was stored in that small space eventually caught fire overnight. (Our whole story on this fire is available in the American Numismatic Associations monthly magazine *The Numismatist* under our column – Numismatic Chronicles – magazine date August of 2025)

C.													
Statement of the amounts coined annually at the branch mints, from the commencement of their operations until December 31, 1844 1844.													
Mints and periods.	GOLD.					SILVER.						TOTAL.	
	Eagles.	Half eagles.	Quarter eagles.	Total of gold.		Half dollars.	Quarter dollars.	Dimes.	Half dimes.	Total of silver.		Whole coinage.	
				Number.	Value.					Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.
	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Dollars.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Pieces.	Dollars.	Pieces.	Dollars.
Charlotte, N. C.	1838	-	12,886	7,894	20,780	84,165	-	-	-	-	-	20,780	84,165
	1839	-	23,467	18,173	41,640	162,767	-	-	-	-	-	41,640	162,767
	1840	-	18,994	12,834	31,828	127,055	-	-	-	-	-	31,828	127,055
	1841	-	21,467	10,281	31,748	133,038	-	-	-	-	-	31,748	133,038
	1842	-	27,480	8,642	36,122	159,005	-	-	-	-	-	36,122	159,005
	1843	-	44,353	26,096	70,449	287,005	-	-	-	-	-	70,449	287,005
	1844	-	23,631	11,622	35,253	147,210	-	-	-	-	-	35,253	147,210
Total		172,278	98,542	267,820	1,100,245							267,820	1,100,245
Palmonega, Ga.	1838	-	20,583	-	20,583	102,915	-	-	-	-	-	20,583	102,915
	1839	-	18,939	13,674	32,613	128,880	-	-	-	-	-	32,613	128,880
	1840	-	22,896	3,532	26,428	123,310	-	-	-	-	-	26,428	123,310
	1841	-	30,495	4,164	34,659	162,885	-	-	-	-	-	34,659	162,885
	1842	-	59,608	4,643	64,251	309,648	-	-	-	-	-	64,251	309,648
	1843	-	98,452	36,209	134,661	582,782	-	-	-	-	-	134,661	582,782
	1844	-	88,982	17,332	106,314	488,600	-	-	-	-	-	106,314	488,600
Total		339,955	79,554	419,509	1,899,020							419,509	1,899,020
New Orleans.	1838	-	-	-	-	-	-	402,430	-	402,430	40,243	402,430	40,243
	1839	-	-	9,396	23,490	116,000	-	1,291,600	1,060,000	2,467,600	240,160	2,476,996	263,650
	1840	-	30,400	26,200	56,600	217,500	855,100	425,200	1,175,000	935,000	3,390,300	698,100	3,446,900
	1841	2,500	8,350	7,380	18,230	85,200	401,000	452,000	2,007,500	815,000	3,675,500	555,000	3,693,730
	1842	27,400	16,400	19,800	63,600	405,500	957,000	769,000	2,020,000	350,000	4,096,000	830,250	4,159,600
	1843	175,162	101,075	368,002	644,239	3,177,000	2,268,000	968,000	150,000	-	3,386,000	1,391,000	4,030,239
	1844	118,700	364,600	-	483,300	3,010,000	2,005,000	740,000	-	220,000	2,965,000	1,198,500	3,448,300
Total		323,762	520,825	430,758	1,275,365	6,018,600	6,002,100	3,354,200	7,046,500	3,380,000	20,382,830	5,013,253	21,658,195
Sum of 1844		323,762	1,033,058	608,754	1,962,694	9,917,950	6,002,100	3,354,200	7,046,500	3,380,000	20,382,830	5,013,253	22,345,524
Sum of 1844		323,762	1,033,058	608,754	1,962,694	9,917,950	6,002,100	3,354,200	7,046,500	3,380,000	20,382,830	5,013,253	22,345,524

Total capitulation of coinage from all 3 branch mints 1838-1844

The Year of 1845

Coiner Bolton passes, recovery continues, and Gibbon wants his son as coiner

January 4th, - 1845 – Congressman David M. Barringer to Patterson – an appropriation for rebuilding was sent out to the Committee of Ways & Means – its chance for success is almost certain. Whatever else you have on the matter, please send.

January 6th, - Patterson to Bibb – the officers will continue to receive their wages and the workmen (only 4 in number) were still employed about this establishment. With their continued employment, and if the Congress passes the appropriation, and during rebuilding the staff will be ready to assist and eventually restore operations. Plus, their wages are needed to supply them and their families, if we did not their expertise would be lost if they were to find other work. Caldwell said his workers are engaged in removing rubbish and guarding the premises. Once the replacement machinery comes their expertise will be invaluable.

January 7th, - Patterson to Caldwell – please send the annual assay coins when you can. Mr. Barringer has sent a letter that he sent to the Committee on the continued wages, and I emphasized that the current means of cleanup and possible renewal of operations not be interrupted.

January 17th, - Caldwell to Patterson – had originally intended to take the assay coins with me if I came to visit, but by the receipt of your 7th letter, I will send them. There are 12 separate parcels; 10 containing each 4 half eagles – \$200; and 2 containing each 4 quarter eagles - \$20 – total \$220.

February 26th, - Cashier at State Bank to Patterson – sending a box containing 20 parcels of gold bullion. The list of the depositors is on Entry 11, 1843, pages 394-4.

March 13th, - Patterson to Robert J. Walker (Secretary to the Treasury) – a synopsis of the bill before Congress and stipulations. Also, the new machinery must be made in Philadelphia, and part of it perhaps, at this mint.

March 14th, - Patterson to Caldwell – discussing the appropriation Act, he exceedingly regretted that suspension was made for the payment of salaries to the officers until the mint is in condition to resume operations. My views were asked and I presented them in a manner which I had hoped would have prevented this step. It was only at the office of the Secretary of State, in a visit to Washington, that my endorsement

had led to nothing more than the introduction of a promise, which can only effect yourself. I had an interview with Secretary Walker where I laid my views, and I now await his instructions, in order to inform you. I felt it my duty to call your attention to this.

March 19th, - Caldwell to Patterson – received a copy of the appropriation Act, but I regret to find that the salaries for the officers has been suspended. Assume that I will be retained as Superintendent, but ask if I can retain the services of my Clerk. Am surprised to learn that someone has said that the remaining machinery has been exposed to the weather – that is entirely false. The machinery left has been immediately put away, cleaned and oiled and put under lock and key. The machinery has been taken care of, the lot attended to, and almost daily inspection by the Clerk and myself.

April 2nd, - Walker (Secretary of the Treasury) to Patterson – the plan for the building for the Branch Mint is approved. It is to be placed under the direction of Mr. Caldwell, who will be retained.

April 16th, - Caldwell to Patterson – I have engaged a single contractor to do the building rebuild. Feel that it will be faithfully and speedily executed by this gentleman, and divided with 2 or 3 different contractors. Mr. Henry C. Owens is the contractor and has a security bond of \$30,000. We will need the architectural drawings from you, and by the way he will do the work for \$20,000 – giving us a savings of \$5,000 of the \$25,000 appropriation. Because Mr. Owens is local, there would not be any out of state bickering over the \$20,000 price tag.

April 19th, - Patterson to Caldwell – before Patterson received Caldwell's letter of the above April 16th, he sent a list of estimates that he had established for the separate works involved in the building. Patterson's estimate was \$22,550 – more than Caldwell's.

April 22nd, - Patterson to Caldwell – finally received Caldwell's letter with Caldwell's report of a contractor. Patterson is pleased that Caldwell had found a local contractor. Surprised to hear that he has not received the drawings from the Treasury Department, I will inquire. The patterns for the machinery are all repaired, and the castings are now more of the forging is done. In a week the machinery should be working.

May 3rd, - Congressman Barringer to Honorable Cave Johnson – a letter of support for Gibbon as a gentleman of science, several years employed with the Government, but whose salary is suspended until the Charlotte Mint is rebuilt and operating again. It is believed that his input would be important during reconstruction. I urge you to contact Mr. Walker of the Treasury and discuss this appointment.

May 20th, - Patterson to Walker – please issue a warrant of \$1,000 for the purchase of machinery and tools, including repairing of the old of the Charlotte Mint.

June 6th, - Caldwell to Patterson – rebuilding rapidly. All the walls have been pulled down to the stone foundation, and rubbish carted away. Bricklayers and stonemasons are busily engaged. Roof is to be covered with cedar shingles, but that type not available here, but that cypress or juniper shingles can be obtained in any quantity from this area. I suggest that the \$5,000 saved could be used to cover the roof with copper, and await your opinion and cost of same. Nevertheless, I insist that shingles should be cedar, if funds allow.

June 11th, - Patterson to Caldwell – I cannot consent to a roof of copper – they are much more expensive than wooden roofs, and liable to leak and very little more secure from fire. For it is from the inside that fire occurs in an insulated building. Have no objection to you using cypress or juniper shingles in place of cedar.

June 20th, - Gibbon to Patterson – I have written to Walker a request that he would not suspend my salary, for my expertise is needed for the internal rebuilding of the mint. I will need to inform of what machinery and apparatus needed for my department and how the should be placed. When we first opened, it took nearly 9 months to arrange all to start. In your opinion, I hope that you understand the need for my service in this regard. While almost much private copy of mine was destroyed, almost all the public property was saved that was under my charge.

July 4th, - Caldwell to Patterson – I have the melancholy information to announce the death of our Coiner Mr. Bolton, which happened this morning. After an illness of many months, although not confined to his bed until lately. Left a large family, which are “in a very destitute condition, and unable to do anything for themselves as most of them are quite young.” Progressing well on construction, except for lumber which has been difficult because of the drought. As soon as water can be obtained, the contractor will employ sawmills to supply.

July 10th, - Gibbon to Patterson – in Washington – unable to meet with the Secretary of the Treasury. He has directed the Chief Clerk to write that you are authorized to employ the officers of the Charlotte Branch. I await your decision in this city.

July 10th, - Patterson to Walker – received word of Bolton’s death and has left his family in desperate straights. Now his suspension of pay bothers me more. To replace him, they will need a competent man who is also a Machinist, who could make his service immediately available. I will make inquiries and let you know.

July 11th, - Walker to Patterson – because of your judgment of the importance of the Assayer and Coiner to be of continued service, you are now authorized to reinstate their salaries and give them the necessary instructions.

July 12th, - Gibbon to Patterson – informed of Bolton's demise, and Gibbon promotes his son, Robert Gibbon to replace Bolton as Coiner. He has, by nature, mechanical ability, and a test of management with workmen. He has been in the South for several years, he is 22 years old, and anxious to obtain the position, and I solicit for him. I feel that 6 months in Philadelphia can acclimate him for the position, and will handle the Coiner's prep here in the meantime. He is now in Charlotte occupied with his studies. In this letter, Gibbon adds 2 endorsements of his son from two university officials, as to his integrity, etc.

July 16th, - Patterson to Gibbon – repeats his commitment that he sent to Walker about who is needed to replace Bolton and it is not his (Gibbon's) son who is not qualified for his specifications for a Coiner.

July 16th, - Patterson to Gibbon – you are reinstated and report to Caldwell to offer your assistance in the rebuild and placement. You will start your salary from the first of this month.

July 16th, - Patterson to Caldwell – I have your notice of Mr. Bolton's demise. John R. Bolton was for many years connected with this mint and with his dedication and expertise, he was supported by the older Eckfeldt here to take the Coiner position at your mint. It is a sad circumstance that it has left his family helpless and unprovided for. Dr. Gibbon has been given approval to return to your mint to assist and his salary returned. We are looking in earnest for a replacement for Bolton as soon as possible.

July 17th, - Patterson to Caldwell – Patterson lets him know that Gibbon contacted him supporting his son to take the position of your new Coiner. However, I expressed to him my concrete thoughts that I need someone with experience and is a machinist – which he lacks. Right now, I have no machinist in view for the office, and may not be able to find one, at the same competent, and willing to go to Charlotte. I may be necessary to select another individual, and ask for your views on selecting Gibbon's son Robert. Competency is so important, unless a selection was made from this mint. I spoke to George Eckfeldt, our foreman, and was not surprised that he declined. The close relationship of the proposed candidate is “an objection that is not without weight, but it was not considered fatal in the appointment, some years ago, of the son of our Chief Coiner as Assayer.” However, here, the Assayer has no judgment to pass on the work of the Coiner, while your mint, the Coiner is also the M/Rm, and one of the most important

duties of the Assayer is pass judgment on the ingots. And, how about public opinion in your part of the Country? Please send your opinions.

July 29th, - Patterson to (?) - maybe Caldwell – a Mr. Robert Shaw, a son-in-law of Bolton visited here and asked for Bolton's back and suspended wages. I had to decline the request for it would be illegal. I suggested a subscription to the Government.

July 29th, - Gibbon to Patterson – I hear that Doctor Pinekey (?), brother of Caldwell was a candidate for Coiner. My personal relations with Dr. Caldwell are so intimate that I yield in his favor (Gibbon writes something here about his son Robert but it is unreadable). Dr. Caldwell is a gentlemen of education to render himself competent to all the duties he wishes to fill. His age complements his responsibilities. He is favorably known as a fine Doctor of Medicine.

July 30th, - Caldwell to Patterson – received your recommendations, however, I see that you are unable to get a machinist from Philadelphia. I am glad that Dr. Gibbon here has withdrawn his recommendation for his son Robert. I recommend my oldest brother, Dr. P. C. Caldwell of this place for the Office. His appointment will be welcomed by the community. Feel that he could handle Coiner. I do not urge this appointment, but had objections to Gibbon's son from the community – he was not well known. The rebuilding continues and bricks and stone cut for pelting up. Dr. Gibbon has returned and will assist. I still would like my Clerk to be reinstated.

August 8th, - Walker to Patterson – the Clerk position at Charlotte may be reinstated. Caldwell was informed of this in a letter from Patterson dated August 12.

August 12th, - Patterson to Caldwell – have received your recommendation, but I still insist that a Coiner applicant be a technician if this person could have the other qualities as well. No person has applied from the other mints.

August 20th, - Patterson to Caldwell – George Eckfeldt will assist with the placement of machinery, but asks the condition of the well and pump. He says that a report from Charlotte is that one of the presses has fallen into the well. Has it been taken out, has the well been cleaned out, and is the pump operating? Your press is finished here and the other machinery is in progress.

August 22nd, - Patterson to Mrs. Margaret Shaw (Daughter of Bolton) – I am sorry to say that I cannot see any grounds on which, under the existing laws, a claim could be made at the Charlotte Branch, that could benefit your Mother. The officers of the mint have made a subscription for her relief which will be placed today in the hands of Mr. Richards. I have to regret that it is for so small an amount.

August 22nd, - Caldwell to Patterson – I see that you still are holding that an applicant for Coiner should be a mechanic, and combined with the other qualities. My recommending my brother was because he would be more welcome by the community than by Gibbon's son. I therefore hope you find someone there in Philadelphia. Applicants in the County have been totally unfit. Rebuilding going well, except the weather sometimes delays the contractor. Mr. Strange is back on duty. I plan on being in your part of the Country soon to possibly visit, since Dr. Gibbon and Mr. Strange are handling things well here.

August 30th, - Caldwell to Patterson – the well has been cleaned out, and in such a condition as can be used, but will require more repairs before operations. Bottom of well injured but can be repaired. The valve of the pump is somewhat out of order, but the contractor has been able to use it. The western wing have nearly been completed, and arches next week. The sawmills will be back to work shortly as well as rain has come.

September 11th, - Caldwell to Patterson – some modifications suggested on the rebuilding are: By the place of the building there is a vault for the Melter adjoining the Assayer's office – this is unnecessary, as there are 2 large vaults in the basement for M/R, besides a vault in the 2nd story for the Coiner and Melter. A change in a door placement is mentioned to provide better access and to provide for a freer flow of air which might be attained. (Described at length in this letter) The positions of the Assayer doors now in the plans I fear will cause the chimney to smoke and wish to have them placed differently. The Mason suggests the chimneys should be higher – 9 inches to 12 inches at the top to aid in draught. To lathe and plaster the ceilings in the Assayer's is objectionable on account of the danger of plaster falling upon bottles of acids or assay balances. If this is done with the plaster, we should await till it is completely dry, because the action of the machinery and leaks(which we experienced with the Old Mint) will effect the plaster integrity if not dry. I prefer a wooden ceiling instead. The Masons and carpenter have a list of further requirements here. I find no place for an adjusting room – at present marked off for Coiner's office. A suggestion for this is needed sooner because they are getting along very rapidly in raising the walls. I find I cannot visit this month, but will on the first opportunity.

September 25th, Gibbon to Patterson – Doctor P. Caldwell has declined his application to be Coiner and has supported my son Robert. Caldwell said after the recommendation was dropped for his brother that he has no objection to my son. Gibbon builds up his son again and he would be happy to have him at his side at the mint. He then brought up the father and son Eckfeldt at the Philadelphia Mint again. Ends with, "but we hope you might not object to our arrangement of so much importance to us."

October 1st, - Former Superintendent Wheeler (now a lawyer in Charlotte) to Patterson – A Mr. Richard Trilase (?) has been known to me for years who has been engaged working in the mines, and is a machinist. He hope that you may find out about his fidelity and skill.

October 18th, - Wheeler again to Patterson – Trilase and I find it a duty to write you now in confidence as I wish for the success of the Charlotte mint. I hear that Robert Gibbon has applied and may be successful. But I feel that Robert is not qualified nor have have experience, that the Assayer and Coiner should be checks on each other, and I do not believe this would happen if Robert succeeded. You need a suitable person for the position.

October 20th, - Patterson to Walker – still not been able to find a suitable candidate for Coiner. The case is not pressing and it is better to submit it to a longer delay, than to make an unsuitable selection. The Assayer, Gibbon, is again pressing for his son, and I do not question the merits of the young man, but he is not a mechanic and the son of the Assayer. That would cause a judgment problem between them both. He repeats about our father and son situation here, but the facts are not the same.

October 20th, - Patterson to Wheeler – I gave Mr. Trilase a letter to Caldwell, and I presume he may find it proper to engage his services. Mu views have been sent to the Secretary and the Superintendent, but finding a suitable candidate is still up in the air.

November 11th, - Patterson to Caldwell – George Eckfeldt asks if the Blacksmith is still there, and can he help with the machinery? Also can a competent Millright be found in Charlotte?

November 21st, - Caldwell to Patterson – yes the Blacksmith is still here and helping the contractors presently, but can assist Eckfeldt at any time. There are maybe one two good millrights I can contact here. Walls are all nearly up, and should be covered by January 1st, so that you may send the machinery. Maybe be able to start operations by the beginning of March, but maybe by the 1st of April.

December 19th, - Caldwell to Patterson – we have had some delay from my last letter of the 21st, because it has been so cold here that the Masons have had to stop working. So the mint stays about the same from my letter. It is unusual for us to have a season of cold. This should still not prevent the sending of the machinery, but Eckfeldt need not come until the building is covered.

December 26th, - Patterson to Caldwell – Eckfeldt and 2 machinists who have been at work for your mint, and were set to leave this Monday, but your letter of the 19th

has stopped them. They will now await word from you. Mr. Peale asks that the floor of the rolling room be laid, as soon as the roof is in, with the exception of the space between the longitudinal girders.

The Year of 1846

Despite ready to begin coinage again, new Coiner isn't chosen until August

January 23rd, 1846 – Patterson to Honorable Dixon (?) H. Lewis – In support of the Charlotte Mint and not in much of a mint in New York.

February 17th, 1846 – Patterson to Caldwell – the machinery was shipped on the 29th of December and learned from the Charleston papers that they arrived in due time. Has any of the machinery arrived to you yet? Eckfeldt and his team are still waiting word from you so they can depart for Charlotte.

February 23rd, - Caldwell to Patterson – some machinery has reached us by wagon, and encouraged our agent to get the rest as soon as possible. Walls are now completed and the frame of the roof is on, ready to receive the shingles. The rear building will be covered and flooring put in by the time Eckfeldt and company arrive. So, they may come when convenient. The coldness here has delayed construction for a time.

March 9th, - Patterson to Caldwell – Eckfeldt and company are leaving tomorrow with a Ms. John Pierrie and Arthur Orr – for the erection of machinery. He is to receive \$3.50 per day and the cost of his board. Each of his assistants are to receive \$2.75 per day and allowed \$10 per month for board. Traveling expenses are to be paid them Eckfeldt \$50; \$45 each for Pierrie and Orr.

March 20th, - Caldwell to Patterson – they arrived on Monday the 16th, and they have been provided comfortable accommodations. I am sorry to say that the contractor cannot fulfill completion per contract by April 1st. Rear building is set however for Eckfeldt to set up machinery. I shall take steps after April 1st, that will ensure a speedy

completion of the building. In justice however, the work has been faithfully executed. The only complaint against him is his -----(unreadable) which has taken his friends as well as myself very much by surprise, even after making all allowances for the severity of the Winter. Need workman Terres reinstated when we commence operations, but he has acquired grog shops, one in Charlotte, that wishes to keep and still work at the mint. But, I feel that will not work with 2 things to concern him, so I will need a replacement for him as an assistant to the Assayer. Need somewhat of a mechanic, for the remaining workmen here lack that ability. Caldwell then lists several articles that need to be sent. Eckfeldt asks if the Draw Bench is finished in Philadelphia – if so when can we expect it?

March 31st. - Patterson to Caldwell- agree with you on the decision for the contractor and the situation with Terres. A grog shop and work at the mint does not comply. I will look for someone here for you. Your request for supplies will be attended to. The Draw Bench will be ready to ship in 2 or 3 days.

April 15th, - Caldwell to Patterson – Eckfeldt and assistants getting on very well, but a good deal of trouble with the Engine, but after some work, it will probably work better than before. Gibbon wants to return Terres who has already transformed his interest in all his grog shops, except the one in town and he is now making arrangements to transfer this one as well for he wishes to return to the mint. I have no objections if this comes about. He is leaving for Philadelphia for some business and wishes to visit you at the Mint. Contractor is getting along very well now and I think will be ready to deliver it over by the time Eckfeldt can put us into operation.

April 22nd, - Caldwell to Patterson – there have been breaking into stores committed in the village in the Fall and Winter that I deem it unsafe since the machinery is exposed at night, from fear of again being destroyed. I have employed two persons as a Watch at an annual salary of \$300 each. As there will be no dwelling in the mint, I feel the Watch needs to be continued when we commence operations, and I request an added \$600 for the Watch purpose.

May 11th, - Patterson to Caldwell – several items shipped on the 9th. The complete list is in the letter.

May 25th, - Patterson to Caldwell – I have failed to find a mechanic willing to accept the vacant office of Coiner. One I did find, had to decline because of his health. It is important that one is found before the adjournment of Congress. I have heard of a candidate from South Carolina. If true, I will need his name and his claims. I received 3 days ago your introduction to Rev Mr. Freeman. He informs me that he had himself been a candidate for Coiner. Appears to be an intelligent man, and has certainly a tack (?)at

least, for mechanics. Our Chief Coiner is pleased with him, and feels he would be competent for the mint with some lessons here. Let me know about his claims.

May 26th, - Patterson to Caldwell – I had forgotten about your note on Watchmen. I do approve of their placement, but I think it expedient and unnecessary to interfere with the appropriation Bill. I will ask the Committee of Ways & Means for the funding for this necessary implementation.

June 2nd, - Gibbon to Patterson – through Mr. Eckfeldt, I will need the following items for the Assay Department. The list is within this letter and numerous.

June 3rd, - A Mr. Richard H. Bayard from Wilmington, Delaware to Patterson – in support of a Jacob Alrichs for Coiner. Intelligence, integrity, and mechanical skill is emphasized.

June 3rd, - Caldwell to Patterson – the machinery is now in place and much thanks go to Eckfeldt and his assistants. I have paid them for their services and given them \$50 each for their return home – leaving here today. I regret no one for Coiner has been found, and I have not heard from South Carolina on that applicant. I do not know him. As to Mr. Freeman, I do not feel he is qualified. He has been a pastor in this town, who became dissatisfied with him, and has been replaced there. There is no one here to my knowledge capable.

June 9th, - Patterson to Walker – a visit was recently made by a James A. Black and F. H. Elmore representing Mess. Reuben Perry and Thomas Ligow, former contractors of the original construction of the Charlotte Mint back in 1837. The original construction called for a cornice of brick, but this material, instead of using stone, was thought to be unsafe as a projection. So the contractors did suggest stone, but Mr. Strikland, the architect, said that brick would be fine, but admitted that rough stone, if plastered, could work. So I agreed at that time, that stone would be safer. I rejected the added cost of the stone, versus brick, because it was not authorized. A range of stone flags was used, and the body of the cornice was still made of bricks. The award paid for quarrying, wagoning 21 mules, cutting, and putting up the work amounted to \$1,177. I had no expectation of the additional expenses, but I see that the change was necessary. I now withdraw my former objections to the claim, should it again be brought before Congress.

June 11th, - Patterson to Walker & Caldwell – it is my understanding that a Mr. Bennett of South Carolina has been placed with Senate. Could you please stress with them that the Coiner need is crucial for the Charlotte Mint to resume operations – they are just about ready to begin otherwise.

June 17th, - Patterson to Honorable Jas A. Black – the Charlotte Mint is now in working order but cannot proceed until a Coiner is put in place. I understand that a Mr. W. Bennett has been put in nomination. What is delaying the action of the Senate on this?

June 27th – Caldwell to Patterson – in the course of 3 weeks we can begin operations if a Coiner is appointed. A large quantity of gold has arrived and is being held up. I am at a loss where to put the adjusting room, unless the new Coiner takes the office, formerly Bolton's, and now allotted for Gibbon. It will still allow Gibbon two rooms, which should be sufficient. I ask your appropriation for this suggested alteration so it will not involve any difficulty with Gibbon, as he is very averse to any suggestion or alteration of mine without your appropriation.

June 29th, - An endorsement letter from a (unreadable) to U. S. Senator Haywood (?). The name endorsed is difficult to read but it looks like a David W. Stone. Encourages this letter to be sent to Patterson.

June 29th, - Senator Haywood to Patterson – Said that his friend, David W. Stone of North Carolina, is encouraged by the Senator to take the Coiner position. Again, this handwriting is hard to decipher from the Senator. Looks like he says Mr. Stone is an intelligent man and can learn his duties in a short time if placed at the Philadelphia Mint first for training.

July 3rd, - Patterson to (letters of endorsement authors??) - Patterson knew of David Stone, but cannot agree to his appointment as Coiner. He is not a mechanic and I will stay with that ruling. Any individual who believes he can be a mechanic with training at our Mint, lives in a fantasy. It requires first the knowledge of mechanics and learn more from there. However, if the President feels that he will appoint him, then I will accede to his order. I say this, "A Coiner is not called upon to perform personally, mechanical labor, but it is nevertheless of great importance that he should know how to perform them. The commander of a ship ought to be a sailor, though he is not expected to handle the ropes."

July 6th, - Patterson to Walker – rejects the application of David Stone for he is formerly the President and Cashier of the Bank of Raleigh, North Carolina and has no mechanical experience – was but an account. He added that my letter containing a nomination for Mr. Brooks may be sent to the President. He is presently not doing any Coinership, but might pursue the matter.

July 8th, Patterson to Caldwell – Material you asked for will be shipped. Thus far I have rejected applications for your Coiner position. However, there is a Mr. John

Brooks. He qualifies in all that I ask, and he is a former Coiner at the New Orleans Branch Mint, and for the last 3 years a foreman there. He has several times taken over the Coining department in absence of the regular Coiner. I approve of the changes you suggest to have in an adjustment room, and I feel that Gibbon will have to adjust t the change in his apartments.

July 16th, - Gibbon to Patterson – I have been informed that I should give up for the use of the Coiner – the apartment appropriated as my office and weigh room. The weigh room I have designed as a laboratory, in it we will distill water and acid to prepare fine silver. This room is exposed to all the afternoon sun – in summer I have often obliged to refer the to the office upstairs to complete my calculations. My health here has suffered, and since my family resides out of town, I sometimes sleep in my office. When business comes, the evenings and mornings are taken by my work. The arrangements proposed would prevent this much to my own inconvenience and that of the depositors. I therefore trust that such other distribution as the size of this building will allow – may be made for the accommodation of the Coiner.

July 18th, - Patterson to Walker – Sent a letter to you from the Coiner at New Orleans, Philos Tyler, and one from John Brooks – which expresses his interest.

July 25th, - Caldwell to Patterson – The building will be completed August 1st, and in the course of 10 days or so, we might commence operations if we had a Coiner, and the assay weights for Gibbon. If a Coiner is appointed, it will take at least a month. I am taking a trip to the mountains in the interim. If by chance, a new Coiner would arrive earlier, I will cancel my trip.

July 28th, - Patterson to Gibbon – have received your letter of the 16th and would be very happy to accommodate it if was in my power to propose to the Superintendent any arrangement that would enable you to retain the rooms, and yet leave a suitable office for the Coiner. I have looked over the plan, and cannot find a solution to the problem. I cannot be asked to have the M/R and Coiner without an office. I repeat that this will cause you an inconvenience.

July 31st, - Patterson to Caldwell – we have shipped on the 23rd the assay weights requested and the other materials will be sent shortly. Mr. Williams, sometime in Washington, heard from Mr. Black in South Carolina that a person named Graham was nominated for Coiner. Graham is already an old man, wholly uneducated, and not a machinist. If this is so, his appointment would be unfortunate. Hopefully, you will intercede before it is too late. Mr Williams also speaks highly of a Mr. Gluys. If my nominee, Brooks, is not approved (as seems to be the fact) perhaps Mr. Gluys might. Do you know of him?

August 5th, - Patterson to Caldwell – I have given you all the information I have on getting you a Coiner. As it stand nothing new, so you may find the time for your trip for your health.

August 8th, - McCulloch (Comptroller) to Patterson – I transmit to you Mr. Emmon Graham to be the new Coiner at Charlotte.

August 10th, - Patterson to Emmon Graham (new Coiner) – As soon as you are ready you will need to present yourself to the Superintendent at Charlotte. Your duties will be presented to you and you will have the assistance of the Assayer, Dr. Gibbon, and an experienced assistant in Mr. John Rigler.

August 11th, a letter from a Mr. Edward Bissell of Charlotte to (?) - cuts down the new Coiner, Graham, as it gives Bissell universal dissatisfaction. Says that he is filthy, slow and very (unreadable). He is also inefficient. He is a pretty good mechanic (a Millright) and has much information. He is about 55 years of age, was born in Pennsylvania. Now lives in South Carolina about 40 miles from Charlotte – has a family there. He was appointed in consequence of the urgent recommendation of Mr. Black who once was his partner.

August 14th, - Caldwell to Patterson – I am against the appointments of either Mr. Graham or Mr. Gluys for Coiner here. I recommend and insist on Brooks for Coiner, and who at once could filly assist in our beginning. Without delay of months or 6 weeks instruction at your mint. Please push for Mr. Brooks.

August 29th, - Graham to Patterson – I will be sending you the signed forms immediately since I have accepted the appointment as Coiner.

September 2nd, - Strange to Patterson – Caldwell has gone to the mountains for 8 to 10 days, and I have the honor of requesting the above and below articles for our mint. The new Coiner has taken the oath of office, and except his Bond, in time, to forward by the next mail. Also enclosed are a list of articles needed by the Coiner and M/R.

September 16th, - James A. Black to (?)– the appointment of Graham will be a plus to your mint. He is an able officer and trustworthy. And, and excellent man.

September 22nd, - Patterson to Caldwell – Many of the articles requested have already been sent (the list is on the 1st page of the letter). I do not agree that you need several articles, part of which we found unworkable here (he explains why in the letter – not repeated here). Postscript: awaiting the starting of your mint, and have yet to receive Graham's Bond – why is it delayed?

October 2nd, Caldwell to Patterson – yesterday I moved to the Mint, and we are still in such confusion and bustle, that I have been unable to make out the estimates for this fiscal year commencing July 1847. I enclose Graham's Bond. I am unacquainted with him, but from information received from a gentleman, in whom I have every confidence, I have no hesitation in recommending the acceptance of the Bond. **No deposits of gold yet, and not till Monday – we intend then commencing coinage of the half eagle ingots which are cast, just previous to the destruction of the Mint July 1844.**

October 10th, - Caldwell to Patterson – sending the estimates for the fiscal year. But, I regret to inform you that Gibbon is ill and we have not been able to resume because of it. However, 23 to 25 thousand dollars of bullion has been received – all waiting assay, may in the course of 10 days as Gibbon rapidly convalesces.

October 30th, - Caldwell to Patterson – the sickness of Gibbon has been a great drawback, but he was able to work for 2 days and several assays accomplished. I have received nearly \$200,000 worth of bullion for the month – and because of that we had the opportunity of trying the machinery – happy to inform all is well – and having made a coinage of \$12,920.

October – first coinage after a two-year hiatus – 2,584 half eagles struck - \$12,920.



1846 C Half Eagle - first denomination of coin struck after the fire – courtesy of Heritage

November 9th, - Caldwell to Patterson – M/R reports to me his utter inability to proceed with operations for want of precipitating jars – two of the 3 received shortly after the burning of the mint are cracked and unfit for service. A large quantity of gold on hand requiring refining, and if not done, we have not a sufficiency of fine gold to make ingots. Please forward 4 precipitating jars ASAP.

November 14th, - Patterson to Caldwell – sorry to hear of your predicament – 4 jars were ordered for you on September 8th, but the manufacture is not always reliable. Let me suggest you use cedar or pine, sprayed inside with pitch, this may help.

November 17th, - Patterson to Caldwell – **sending a pair of half eagle dies and will send on succeeding days 2 new pairs of same and 3 pair of quarter eagle dies, which will complete the prepared dies for you for 1847. In making your defacement report of rejected dies (?) dies, at the close of the present year, please let it extend back to the end of the year of 1843.**

November 25th, - Caldwell to Patterson – the largest portion of bullion is without assay, because Gibbon is still so weak that it is hard to say when he will be able to get fairly to work, but as soon as made, I will forward them. **Received the 3 boxes of dies.**

November – 1,959 half eagles struck for the month.

December 9th, - Caldwell to Patterson – the Assayer's health is such that it is with difficulty he can make the assays for individual deposits, and you will see that 3 deposits are still unassayed. May I suggest that you appoint someone attached here to act in Gibbon's place during his sickness, and that if he refuses to give his consent, that so much of the law requires the consent of the Officer be repealed, in order that the usefulness of this establishment may be preserved.

December 14th, - Patterson to Caldwell – received your letter on your suggestion to appoint. In interpreting the Mint Law on this matter, it comes down to you to make the decision. Suggest Mr. Terres, who has the experience. As far as consent is concerned, that should be dispensed with, if Gibbon still refuses his consent, then the President shall decide.

December – 8,452 half eagles and 4,808 quarter eagles struck for the month.



Being unable to find a picture of Superintendent Green Caldwell, nor any headstone markings, this picture of his older brother, Pickney Caldwell is provided. Any resemblance?

The Year of 1847

Caldwell leaves to serve in Mexican/American War, new Supt chosen

January 14th, 1847 – Patterson to Caldwell – have not received your assay coins since you resumed. Hope this letter is unnecessary, but the delay makes me uneasy.

January 15th, 1847 – Caldwell to Patterson – report sent, and you will see that in December last we had our largest coinage ever made in this mint. I shall forward the assay coins. Coiner requests 50 lbs of fine copper.

January 16th, - Wm Collins (Treasury Department Clerk) to Patterson – I find this Caldwell account with a charge of \$1,436.50 for extra work, which I do not feel justified in allowing. Unless the work was done by your authority. I need your approval.

January 18th, - Patterson to Collins – I give approval to the extra work charge – for this is the extra charge for putting up the machinery by our foreman, George Eckfeldt, and assistants, for the Charlotte Mint.

January 22nd, - Caldwell to Patterson – coins sent for the Annual Assay.

January 1847 – no coinage.

February – 15,734 half eagles struck on two striking dates – total for the month.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Patterson – please send 13 carboys of nitric acid for the refinery. M/R needs a small lot of black lead pots.

March 1st, - William Julius Alexander (appointed new Charlotte Mint Superintendent) to (?) - I have received my appointment from the President and confirmed by the Senate before Judge Caldwell of this State. I will send my official bond that was delayed by the absence of my security, Mr. George F. Davidson, for my

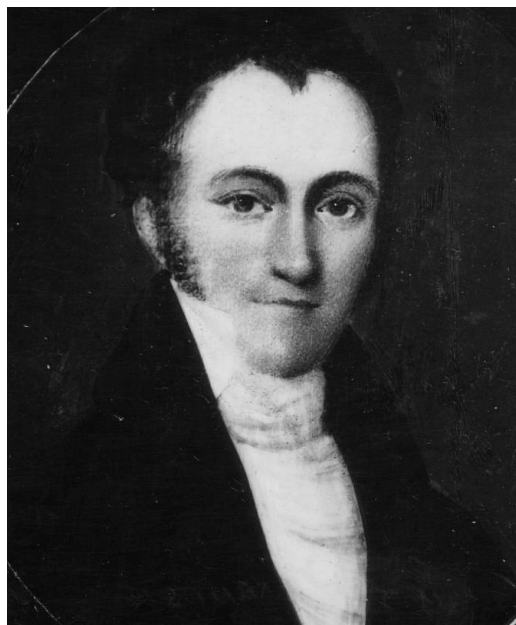
present bond. A March 12th, letter from Strange states that Alexander's bond is now \$40,000. (Authors note: this letter was misfiled into the 1848 year section)

March 10th – Patterson to Walker – received the assay coins from Charlotte to you first. I have now directed them to send the assay coins directly to me instead of through you.

This is labeled a “Private Letter” – written probably in March of 1847 – Patterson to now Captain Caldwell – hear that you have had a military appointment that we know we are losing you as Superintendent at Charlotte. I deeply regret it. I shall be very sorry to lose you as a fellow officer.

March 11th, - Patterson to Caldwell – by your February report, I see that you had much coinage. I did not make my request clear on ending all assay coins to me from now on instead of through the Secretary. Your order for acids has been attended to.

March 23rd, - William Julius Alexander (new Superintendent at Charlotte) to Patterson – Enclosed official Bond as the new Superintendent – appointed by the President.



*William Julius Alexander new
Superintendent at Charlotte*

March 29th, - Patterson to Alexander – official Bond received and from the accounts I have received of you, I am sure that I have reason to congratulate myself for your appointment.

March – 9,341 half eagles, and 4,103 quarter eagles struck for the month.

April 12th, - late Superintendent Caldwell to Patterson – my report for March enclosed. Thank you for being a perfect gentleman for the time I was here in Charlotte.

April – 4,624 quarter eagles, and 6,023 half eagles struck for the month.

May 7th, - Strange to Patterson – In the absence of the Superintendent, who had to attend to a Court this week 30 miles distant – I send the April report.

May 15th, - Alexander to Patterson – I am having difficulty between the Assayer and Coiner about the room alluded to your letter of 8 July, 1846. Mr. Caldwell's letter from you concerns in his views, that the room opposite to the Room of the Clerk of the mint, should be assigned to the Coiner. Unfortunately for me, Caldwell made no decision on this, and left for me to do what I might think right under the instructions to him from you. I need your opinion on the subject so that I can make a decision. I feel anxiety over this because Dr. Gibbon threatens to resign his office rather than give up his room.

May 22nd, - Patterson to Alexander – I had hoped that this question for the room for the Coiner's office had been settled. I have looked at my letter, and see no reason to change. I enclose a copy of my letter to the Assayer, and the whole matter is laid before you for your action.

May – 9,091 half eagles struck for the month.

June 7th, - Gibbon to Patterson – “I feel satisfied that unless the Director had been assured that the Coiner had no office, and that the Superintendent designed to occupy all the private apartments in the mint, he never would have authorized the occupation of my private office by any other officer.” I consider this office my privilege. A convenient adjusting room upstairs should be maintained without depriving me one of convenience – which I had been entitled. I enclose the key of the office according to your request of the 6th of June, but I consider the deprivation a great injustice to me personally, which may delay operations in my department during the summer.

June 14th, - Alexander to Patterson – 12 half eagles sent for assay. Our last deposit was a large one consisting of 38 separate assays, which was the reason for the late monthly report. I have placed the Coiner in the contested room, greatly to the annoyance of Dr. Gibbon, but in order to please him, I have offered to give him my back room, as I did not intend, as he well knew, to occupy the private apartments with my family, and that he has refused to accept. When I talked to him about it he wrote a letter to me (the 7th) which I send you a copy. Gibbon has placed his removal form the room in part, on the ground that you were ignorant, that the Coiner already had an office. This is a past matter between you, him and Caldwell, and he well knew that the complaint was that although the Coiner had a room it was totally unfit for him, but was wanted for an adjusting room. There are other matters of complaint from the Assayer, but I will not go into them now.

June 25th, - Patterson to Alexander – in receipt of your letter of the 14th. I am sorry for the inconvenience to which Gibbon has been put, and am not surprised by his complaint, though I reject the times which he has used and remain convinced of the justice of the measure which has been taken.

June 28th, - Walker to Patterson – still received assay coins from Charlotte intended for you first now.

June – 5,055 half eagles coined for the month.

July 14th, - Alexander to Patterson – our consumption of nitric acid is greater now than ever due to the amount of work we are doing now as formerly. You are aware that the gold from this region is generally of very low quality, but maybe not aware that for almost every pot of ingots, it is necessary to have made and separated a considerable quantity of mixed metal to have fine gold to work the deposits. The labor in the Refinery is very great that since October last we have been obliged to separate 10,759 ounces of gold for the purpose of making ingots. If you think we are working too extravagantly or disadvantage, please give us your opinion.

July 21st, - Patterson to Alexander – the proportions of silver used for granulation has been reduced, and in consequence, the quantity of acid. Because of your situation and explanation your will not be reduced.

July 30th, - Alexander to Patterson – the operations of the mint have been laborious the last 10 months, and the officers and men request me to obtain your consent for a cessation of operations during September. That they may leave town to avoid the sickness generally prevalent here, and develop their strength for the Fall and Winter – which will be increased. We know what happens in New Orleans and the same happens here, but not to the same extent. During September here they have not been fully able to do work – one or more of the officers sick, and little business being done that month. We await your consideration.

The July figure for bullion and coinage for this month misfiled and put on page 74 of Entry 11, 1847. The July 1847 totals are: 14,761 half eagles struck.

August 2nd, - Strange (Superintendent out to the mountains to visit family) to Patterson – Report of operations for July and coins **for assay sent – 20 half eagles - \$100.**

August 7th, - Patterson to Alexander – I do not consider myself empowered to decide on a September closing. Yes, the New Orleans Mint had a few deaths from Yellow Fever and the Secretary gave the authority to close for the period they asked. If

you feel it necessary there, the same care could be taken. If a successful application for same is to be made it must be made on the grounds of apprehended sickness, and the little amount of business in September.

August – no coinage.

September 1st, - Strange (Superintendent returned to mountains little business at mint) to Patterson – sent August report. Added that last Saturday evening that Mr. Terres had a serious accident – his left cheek cut open from his ear to his mouth by a drunken man in town, which confines him to bed, since then no assaying has been done, and none to be done until Terres is able to assist. How long we do not know – can't possibly be under 10 days. Superintendent will return early next week.

September 8th, - Patterson to Alexander – have received the information on Mr. Terres, and the fact that assaying and coinage has stopped because of his accident. But do not understand why someone else in that department that can't pick up the slack – we do it here.

September 20th, - Alexander to Patterson – submit for a larger appropriation to \$11,600. The fence around the grounds is in bad condition – needs to be rebuilt. Patching will not look right – so a new fence needs to be built. Need \$1,000 to rebuild.

September – 3,351 half eagles and 9,578 quarter eagles struck for the month.

October 4th, - Strange to Patterson – report for September. Assayer requests mufflers for the French furnaces. And please have them packed better as the last arrived broken. Also new assay weights needed. Assayer also requests that he has applied several times to the Coiner for a hand to assist him with the loss of Terres, but could not get it because M/R rooms are in activity and that he himself had recently had the argue. The Coiner says that he has plenty of tail dies for next year, and suggests that one or two head dies be added to our allotment instead of tail dies.

October – 4,921 quarter eagles, and 5,531 half eagles struck this month.

November 10th, Strange to Patterson – October monthly report. Coins for assay – 4 quarter eagles, and 8 half eagles.

November – 3,361 half eagles struck this month.

December 1st, - Strange to Patterson – November report. (Author's note: The detailed monthly reports are not with this particular letter and the full report seldom is lately) Not digitized, or in some other record? It always misses the bullion deliveries.

December 20th, - Alexander to Patterson – an almost unreadable letter that says something about going somewhere for a few weeks. Hopefully, a next letter will better explain.

December 31st, - Strange to Patterson – December report with assay coins – 16 half eagles. Assayer Gibbon suggests that assay weights be enclosed by mail as those he has are very worn. Finally, a postscript here: We have received no info respecting the dies of 1848.

December – 11,903 half eagles struck this month.



The Charlotte Mint after reconstruction

The Year of 1848

Late Half Eagle die arrival – coins struck in January are dated 1847

January 7th, - Patterson to Alexander – reminded of your letter regarding an intended absence from the Mint. I do not have the power to give leave. Similar cases have occurred at other Branches and all, I believe, on the responsibility of the Superintendents. I have much confidence in Strange, in your absence, I feel that is alright. **I apologize for having sending you dies for the present year. We send you today, box No.1 and 2 half eagle head dies, and will forward to you on successive days, 2 more half eagle dies, and two pairs of quarter eagle head dies.** Also Eckfeldt is making a set of assay weights for Gibbon, but surprised that ones he has are 'worn' since ours have been here for 12 years.

(Authors' note: the late dies for 1848 are of significance here as the total mintages for both the 1847 year and the 1848 are affected)

U. States Branch Mint
Charlotte N.C. 31 January 1848

Sir

I have the honor of transmitting to you a Report of the Operations of this Branch Mint for the present month, as well as the Coins reserved for the Annual Assay. The Coins bear the impress of 1847 as the Dies for the present year were too late in coming to hand to enable us to use them for the first and only Coinage of this month.

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
W. F. Strange (W)

January 17th, - Patterson to Alexander – the stone (??) are ready for packing to you, but do not understand why these were ordered, we find that they are inferior to the glass. The pot covers we have ordered of American manufacture are superior to the foreign.

January 19th, - Strange to Patterson – Gibbon reports that the shank of one of the small rollers in the Assay room has broken and says it has always been faulty – cannot be repaired here. Wishes a new pair of better quality. Said also that they never received the new assay weights from Paris and already paid for by this mint. **Received 4 boxes of dies.**

January 24th, - Comptroller McCulloch to Patterson – Enclosed letter from Alexander with the receipt of Matthew Wallace, a watchman at Charlotte. Was this appointment authorized by you, and at the rate of \$50 per month?

January 28th, - Patterson to McCulloch – received your inquiry and let me say that the former Charlotte Superintendent, Caldwell, had asked for 2 watchmen at \$300 per year. I considered that charge just and reasonable. I was not aware that a single person was asked for at double the salary. I will have to investigate this further.

January 31st, - Strange to Patterson – report for January operations, however the coins from this month's coinage bear the impress of 1847 as the dies for the present year were too late in coming to hand to enable us to use them for the first and only coinage for the month. (Authors note: This is the first notice that the Charlotte Mint used 1847 half eagle dies to strike coin in January of 1848)

The U. States Branch Mint at Charlotte N.C. during the Month of January 1848.

		No. of	Value
		Pieces	Dolls. cts.
1848			
January	Half Eagle	3,146	15,730.

Further proof that Charlotte struck 3,146 pieces of the half eagle in January of 1848 all dated 1847

Partial of Patterson letter dated Jan 7, 1848 apologizing for late delivery of dies

February 28th, - Strange to Patterson – February report. 8 half eagles sent for annual assay. M/R requests one cask of pot covers, 12 carboys of acid, etc.

February – 5,641 half eagles coined for the month.

March 31st, - Strange to Patterson – March report. 12 half eagles for assay - \$60 in a tin box. I am informed that the Assayer has enough cupels to last 2 or 3 years, so none required.

March – 8,250 half eagles coined for the month.

April – 2,617 half eagles, and 8,661 quarter eagles struck this month.

Curiously, there are no other letters for the month of April 1848 in the records.

May 1st, Strange to Patterson – April report. 8 quarter eagles and 4 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.

May 10th, - Patterson to Alexander – there have been no report of die defacement since January 19th, 1844. I have received your report of an abundance of cupels, but unfortunately 1000 cupels are on the way to you and hopefully you will find room to store them. (Authors note: the following letter answers this question of the defaced dies)

Report at this point of defaced dies from January 24th, 1844 states for use in 1844 – 1 tail half eagle and 2 tails quarter eagle. And to these add 12 head and 8 tail half eagle; 12 head and 8 tail quarter eagle – making a total of 12 head and 9 tail half eagles, and 12 head and 10 tail quarter eagles. No report since that above mentioned or any mention of the injury done by the fire. (Source of this report?) Entry 11, 1847, page 171.

May 19th, - Alexander to Patterson – I am informed by Mr. Strange that dies were defaced on May of 1847 – 2 head half eagle; 2 head quarter eagle and 1 tail of quarter eagle of 1846 and at the same time 1 head quarter eagle die of 1847 which had been spoiled in turning – that in January 1848 there were defaced 3 head half eagle and 2 head quarter eagle dies of 1847 and 12 old dies, unfitted by their shape for our present press – undoubtedly those of 1844 but unfortunately no memorandum was taken of them. The Coiner now has in his hands – 4 head half eagle; 5 tail half eagle; 4 head quarter eagle; and 3 tail quarter eagle – making 23 of all kinds destroyed since last report and 16 possession of all kinds in possession of Coiner.

May 30th, - Patterson to Alexander – in comparison of our defaced record of defaced dies, find a discrepancy of 4 dies without explanation of your defacement of January 1848.

May 31st, - Strange to Patterson – May report. 4 half eagles sent to assay. Asking if it is possible to send assay coin every quarter versus monthly. Reason being that there is enough room in the tin box and would be less prone to theft by monthly shipment.

May – 3,405 half eagles struck this month.

June 14th, - Alexander to Patterson – your letter of the 30th, was missent to Charleston concerning the 4 dies. After examination, I am unable to ascertain the problem. There must have been 13 supposed old dies or only 11 really old dies destroyed in January 1848 as one of the new quarter eagle tail dies was unintentionally destroyed at the same time still leaving 3 or 4 dies according to your records. Mr. Strange believes that all dies were accounted for except for the dies in possession of the late Coiner just before the fire.

June 13th, - Patterson to Alexander – Strange suggests an annual assay coins to be sent quarterly, but I prefer the present arrangement of monthly. It is the practice of all the Branch Mints, and more prudent to send small batches than large.

June 30th, - Alexander to Strange & Patterson (?)– June report. Assay coins 12 half eagles - \$60. Have an inability to account for dies – you state “dies reserved for 1844 (last report)” “3 head and 4 tail half eagle, 3 head and 5 tail quarter eagle dies” making 15 dies. And here, Strange recalls that 6 tin boxes were received containing the dies of 1844 (3 heads, and 3 tails half eagle; 3 heads and 3 tails quarter eagle in all 12 dies). If such then all the dies are accounted for unless there had been reserved 3 of the tail dies of the preceding year, which he thinks was never done at this mint, until last year, at the suggestion of Mr. Graham.

(Authors note: It seems that this missing die(s) problem from the defacement of same was never really clarified. Believe that from previous letters that Bolton as well had reserved several tail dies for the next year’s usage since they did not contain the date. Strange suggests in the previous that has only been by Graham’s request.)

June – 8,688 half eagle stuck this month.

July 20th, - Patterson to Alexander – Assayer rolls have been sent. Mr. Strange’s recollection that 6 tin boxes were received at your Mint with the dies of 1844, you seem to think inconsistent with the statement in my letter of 30 May, of “Dies reserved for 1844, 3 head and 4 tail half eagle and 3 head and 5 tail quarter eagle. Strange is in fact correct, but I included in my statement, 1 tail half eagle, and 2 tail quarter eagle, which by a letter of Mr. Caldwell – dated January 1844, I was informed had been reserved for your use in that year. (Authors’ note: Does this really clear things up? Quite confusing.)

July 31st, - Alexander to Patterson – July report. 4 half eagles for assay sent - \$20. The Coiner and Assayer are both quite sick, about a week ago we thought we should have lost Mr. Graham, who was very sick with a chill, which he had to be carried off – he is now convalescing and probably be back sometime during the week. On Thursday, Gibbon also sick with the chills and then down to fever and may be back by the end of the week. Hopefully, the assays will be done so I can send you a full report. We have had a good deal of sickness and a number of deaths in town, and it is believed by the Physicians that we will have a bad season. I have by this day’s mail, asked the Secretary of the Treasury, with your approval, to suspend operations at such time as I may deem best suited for our operations and the public.

July – 2,639 half eagles coined for the month.

August 8th, - Strange to Patterson – Assayer was able to come yesterday, although quite weak and finished 4 deposits for assay left behind last month. The totals are included here. (Not repeated here)

August 10th, - Patterson to R. J. Walker (Secretary of the Treasury) – I can give the authority that I approve of Charlotte closing operations during September, for there is much sickness there.

August 10th, - Patterson to Alexander – received your report that your officers were ill and the people in town. I have given authority from the Secretary for you to close for September.

August 26th, - Alexander to Patterson – August report. 4 half eagles sent for assay. I shall close the mint on Monday the 28th. And give the employees the opportunity to take their families to the mountains. Do not want them to return too soon. We all thank you for your concern and decision.

August – 3,570 half eagles struck for the month.

September 2nd, - Patterson to Alexander – surprised to hear that the assay rolls have not arrived – will check. Please inform me what dies you will need for 1849. (Authors' note: an early request from Patterson for advice of what dies needed)

September 7th, - Chambers and White (representing the Schooner J. Castner) to Patterson – announcing that the ship carrying your shipment caught fire and the ensuing water to put it out damaged many of the goods. We cannot get the shipment until we sign the average bond, and the invoice so that we can make a claim against the underwriters – if your goods are damaged.

September 13th, - Patterson to Chambers and White – the articles shipped by us were not insured and contained the following copy of the bill presented by the person from whom they were bought.

September 26th, - Patterson to Alexander – **Mr. Rigler wrote saying that he has received 6 tin boxes containing 3 pairs of half eagle and 3 pairs of quarter eagle dies for 1849.** (Note: it is assumed here that Rigler was in Philadelphia and was allowed to take the new dies with him back to Charlotte)

September 26th, - Robert M. Lee (?) to Patterson – an endorsement letter for a Mr. J. Hallifield – the son of the late Coiner John Bolton, is applying for a position in the Charlotte mint. His mother in law and family are in financial stress until they settle with

Mr. Eckfeldt. Mrs. Bolton is in very needy circumstances – the employment of her son-in-law would be a great help.

October 14th, - Alexander to Patterson – estimates for fiscal year of 1849-50 sent - \$11,600. M/R requests 75 lbs of copper for alloy. 1 copper pan for washing strips, 8 basins for parting and 12 black lead pots.

October – 6,545 half eagles coined for the month.

November 2nd, - Strange to Patterson – October report and 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.00. M/R needs 12 carboys of nitric acid and other supplies.

November 15th, - Patterson to Alexander – in receipt of report and assay coins. Estimates for the fiscal year received, and all articles submitted are being processed or shipped.

November – 9,781 half eagles coined for the month.

December 2nd, - Strange to Patterson – November report – 12 half eagles for assay - \$60.00. We actually received the Assayer rolls in August and I neglected to inform you.

They were sent by mistake of the Port Master to Brackett Town where Alexander was spending the summer with his family. Rolls were received in good order. Gibbon is pleased, and will soon use them.

December – 10,190 half eagles and 8,127 quarter eagles coined for the month.

Note: It is pertinent to mention here that the mintage figure for the 1848 Half Eagle is listed in the Red Book as 64,472 pieces, when it is here found in the Charlotte Mint individual records as actually 61,326 pieces. The Red Book staff unknowingly (by not being aware of the letters in the National Archives) added 3,146 pieces to the Charlotte total, when it needs to be subtracted. Admittedly, Charlotte itself noted the 64,472 pieces themselves in their yearly amount totals, but conveniently left out that the 3,146 pieces were actually dated 1847. As said before in this treatise, Charlotte received the 1848 dated half eagle dies too late for use, so previously dated dies were used in their place. All this in turn also means that the total mintage figure for the 1847 half eagle has been affected. The Red Book figure for the 1847 half eagle is 84,151 pieces, when because 3,146 of this total was struck in January of 1848, the 3,146 pieces have to be added to the 1847 half eagle total to be 87,297 pieces. Be it as it may, collectors of Charlotte Mint coinage might find these facts somewhat important concerning rarity and availability of the issue. (Red Book staff please be aware of this discovery and need for clarification)

The following is a month by month list of the coinage of the 1848 half eagle:

February – 5,641

June – 8,688

October – 6,545

March – 8,250

July – 2,639

November – 9,781

April – 2,617

August – 3,570

December – 10,190

May – 3,405

September – mint closed

Total for the year struck of the 1848 eagle is 61,326 pieces versus 64,472 in the Red Book. The half eagles struck in the January 1848 month were all dated 1847, which was 3,146 pieces – therefore affecting mintage totals for both the 1847 & 1848.

The Year of 1849

The start of production of the gold dollar and the problems of preparation

January 1849 – (no exact letter date) – Strange to Patterson – December 1848 report and 12 half eagles and 8 quarter eagles sent for assay – total \$80.00. Total assay coins sent for the year is \$460.00.

January – 5,573 half eagles struck for the month.

February 3rd, - 1849 – Strange to Patterson – January 1849 report and 8 half eagles sent for assay.

In this particular place, misfiled into Entry 11, 1847, page 310, is a letter from Dahlonga which is something to do with an official bond for a new Coiner there – John Doe Field, Junior. This letter is to Secretary Walker dated February 27th, 1849.

No letter for February coinage evident.

March 3rd, - Strange to Patterson – February report – 4 half eagles for assay.

March 28th, Patterson to Alexander – **the coinage of gold dollars has been authorized by Congress of which denomination you will strike.** The dies will be sent. Weight 25.8 grains and diameter ½ inch. Patterson then goes on to describe all the particulars of its production, cutting, milling etc.

April 3rd, - Alexander to Patterson – March report and coins for assay 8 half eagles - \$40. On the 9th of February we **defaced 4 half eagle heads, 1 half eagle tail – 4 quarter eagle heads, 1 quarter eagle tail dies for 1848 – in all 10 dies destroyed. Leaving for the Coiner – 7 half eagle tail, 3 half eagle heads, 5 quarter eagle tail and 3 quarter eagles heads – 18 dies total of both kinds.** M/R listed requests for supplies and the Assayer as well.

April 14th, - Alexander to Patterson – received your notice on the gold dollar. The Coiner has an opinion that if you send the requisite molds – tubes for the mills and Press – tool for receiving the collar of the dies, and a gauge for the thickness of the strip from the rolls. Also an example of one from you that already milled to assist in knowing its properties. Like to get this ASAP so that we may begin soon as dies arrive.

May 1st, - Alexander to Patterson – April report and 16 half eagles sent for assay - \$80.00.

May 2nd, - Patterson to Alexander – supplies requested in your April 3rd, letter have been sent. The gold dollar coinage material asked for is ready to be shipped.

May 3rd, - Patterson to Dahlonga – another misfiled letter to the wrong mint. Entry 11, 1847, page 326. (Authors note: without yet examining the Dahlonga records, it is a wonder if any Charlotte Mint records are misfiled into the Dahlonga records)

May 24th, - Patterson to Alexander – gold dollar dies will be sent in a few days and hopefully the material for their production have already arrived.

May 31st, - Alexander to Patterson – May report. Annual assay coin – 4 half eagles - \$20. I beg to state that it costs 4 to 5 cents per pound for the transport of nitric acid from Philadelphia to here. Have not yet received the material for the gold dollar.

June 11th, - Patterson to Alexander – we made today 1 pair of dollar dies and a second pair will be sent to you tomorrow.

July 3rd, - Alexander to Patterson – June month report. Assay coins 8 half eagles - \$40. **Coiner has made 2 trial pieces of the gold dollar and we send them to you for your inspection.**



1849 C Gold Dollar - first year of production of this denomination

July 7th, - Patterson to W. M. Meredith (Secretary of the Treasury) – I have your approval to the suggestion of making an increase in the Government deposit at the Mint. I hope to make more prompt payment to depositors. The Charlotte Mint indicated in this.

July 9th, - Patterson to Alexander – **have received your June report and also the 2 gold dollars recently struck at your mint. I have found some fault with them. “The milling is too thick in consequence of the groove in the milling machine being too wide – fix by going deeper with a narrow tool – continue here. The reverse is blurred in the polishing of the dies. To prevent this, the reverse die must be left in its rough state, until it has hardened, and it must be polished on a plate of 8 inches radius. The head die is to be polished on the same radius. As your reverse dies may be both injured in the polishing, we will send you new ones as early as possible. I send you two of our gold dollars in return of those sent from you”**

August 4th, - James W. Osborne (newly appointed Superintendent of the Charlotte Mint) to Patterson – Having been appointed Superintendent of this Branch Mint, I now send you the July report plus 8 quarter eagle and 4 gold dollars sent for assay - \$24. **(Authors note: Quite a surprise in the records of this immediate change in the records of Superintendency change at this Mint, and it seems by the following letters that Patterson was somewhat surprised as well)**

August 24th, - Patterson to Osborne – received your letter of the 4th, and 16th (where is this dated letter?) and was surprised, because it came before the receipt of your special bond. Without which I could not officially accept your appointment. But now I have, and it is now official. Received your report and coins for assay.

September 27th, - Strange to Patterson – Superintendent Osborne has not yet returned from the mountains while we have ceased operations for this month. Expected back in a day or two to send you estimates for the fiscal year. (Again, where are the records permitting closing of the mint before this time? - Misfiled?)

September 29th, - Osborne to Patterson – first explains in detail the reason for the delay of bond. Then adds that improvements and repairs money should be allowed here at a larger rate. Material and labor will cost more later than at the present.

September 29th, - Osborne to Patterson – send his fiscal year requirements, and adds \$1,000 for repairing the walls of the ditch in front of the mint, and for making other repairs and painting. In order to carry off the water from the streets, the Town authority had to cut a deep ditch in front which it was necessary to wall up. The fences needed repainting, from appearances and the weather.

October 5th, - Patterson to Osborne – Secretary of the Treasury sent me a letter from the last Superintendent Alexander regarding a house built on the mint lot for the use of the Watchman. My question was the expense necessary? Question – did Mr. Caldwell occupy rooms in the mint? What was the room occupied by them in the mint before the house was built? For what purpose? Where is it placed, its size, what name has it, and what is its purpose? How many Watchmen are there, and how do they divide the watch at night? Is the Watch inside or outside?

October 13th, - Osborne to Patterson – I am informed that Mr. Caldwell occupied the apartments assigned to him, and sent his resignation in April 1847. After the construction of the new building, he was without a family, and did not use the outhouses entrusted for the use of the Superintendent – Mr. Alexander also occupied the apartments until my appointment – his family did not reside in the mint – except from January last until August. Alexander's family made many visits into the mint – the kitchen occupied by the Watchmen and accord the purpose as a resource for them very well. I expect to occupy the two rooms assigned to the Superintendent shortly, and will need all the outhouses connected with – (the rest of this sentence is unreadable). The house in question is apparently on the southwest corner of the front lot, and is natively built. There are 2 Watchmen who divide the night equally and keep their Watch on the outside. Their building is made of brick and plastered and the Watchmen are important. Lastly, the Assayer reports no receipt of Assay weights as of yet – and they are quite important.

October 18th, – 2 letters misfiled for these letters are for the New Orleans Mint – Entry 11, 1847, pages 267 and 268.

October 19th, - Patterson to Meredith – I have received an explanation of the house at Charlotte and I am satisfied that the building was necessary and expedient, and would have allowed to Alexander had he applied. The house is 16ft by 12 – cost was \$232.25 – moderate expense.

November 1st, - Osborne to Patterson – October report – 8 half eagles sent for assay. M/R needs 12 carboys of acid.

November – 7,773 half eagles struck for the month.

December 11th, - Patterson to Osborne – Eckfeldt will be sending assay weights shortly. **Dies, sending 3 pair of half eagle and following mails 3 pair of quarter eagle and 1 pair of gold dollar dies.** Acids are forwarded.

December 15th, - Patterson to Osborne – received your letter of the 8th regarding specimens of gold ore from Mr. Edward H. Bissell, (where is this 8th letter in the records?), and proposing the collection should be purchased by this mint. I have no doubt, from you and Mr. Peale here that the specimen would be a great acquisition. I regret that I am not able to make the purchase and I assume that the number of pieces is considerable.

In this place is but another misfile – a letter dated August 7th, 1849 concerning closing of the New Orleans Mint for the season.

December – 7,489 half eagles struck this month.

The Year of 1850

Tail dies for the gold dollar with a “D” mintmark wrongly sent to Charlotte

January 8th, 1850 – Osborne to Patterson – December report and 12 half eagles for assay - \$60. **Received dies for the present year.** Assayer needs a carboy of acid ASAP.

February 1st, 1850 – Osborne to Patterson – January report and 4 half eagles for assay - \$29 and 4 quarter eagles - \$10 – total in all \$30. M/R has a heavy material request listed. Says also that his half eagle moulds have become too large and worn unevenly. It is difficult that he can get out the ingots. And, the last pots we got were so thin that they would scarcely bear a melt, and never two. The others were excellent.

February 26th, - Osborne to Patterson – in further response to the gold specimens from Mr. Bissell – I have no doubt that they are the best and probably the only collection which has been obtained from our mines. There is probably no other gentleman who would take the time to assemble it. A two page letter from Mr. Bissell accompanies this letter describing the specimens and where they are from. He says they are large size, doesn't want them ground up, and has no more room for them – wishes to sell.

March 1st, - Osborne to Patterson – February report – and 4 half eagle & 4 quarter eagle and 4 gold dollars for assay - \$34. **We have caused to be destroyed: 3 head half eagle, 3 head quarter eagle, 4 tail and 1 head gold dollar dies – in all 11 dies. Coiner has 29 dies of all kinds – 10 half eagle and 8 quarter eagle and 2 gold dollar tail dies. 3 half eagle, 3 quarter eagle, and 3 gold dollar head dies – and in my possession 2 tail gold dollar dies intended for the Georgia Branch as the letter “D” is on them. Shall I transmit them? (Looking through the Dahlonega records for this period, we found a letter dated April 3rd, 1850 from Dahlonega Mint Superintendent A. W. Redding that said they received the 2 missent dollar dies from Charlotte that were mint marked with the letter “D”).**



1850 C Gold Dollar - two tail gold dollar dies of 1850 with the mintmark D were wrongly sent to the Charlotte Mint

March 8th, - Patterson to Osborne – have consulted with my officers on the gold ore collection and have decided that we cannot accept the liberal proposition.

April 4th, - Osborne to Patterson – March report – no assay coins listed.

No March coinage report?

May 2nd, - Osborne to Patterson – April report, and 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.

No April coinage report?

May 31st, - Osborne to Patterson – May report. 12 half eagles for assay \$60. Assayer requests a carboy of *pure* nitric acid – he is nearly out.

June 29th, - Osborne to Patterson – June report. No assay coins listed.

July 19th, - Patterson to Osborne – gives authority to close during “sickly season”.

July 25th, - Osborne to Patterson – application to close for “sickly season” – this letter written before permission had been given already.

August 1st, - Osborne to Patterson – July report – 8 half eagles -\$40 sent for assay. I expect next week to send 2,000 ounces of silver bullion to you since we have an abundance of same, and ordered by the Comptroller.

September 21st, - Osborne to Patterson – just confirming silver bullion shipment and asks if he received their August report and \$20 worth of assay coins.

September 28th, - Patterson to Osborne – have no recollection or record of assay coins for August, however, I found the letter unopened with the Assayer’s mail?). I am to blame for this mistake due to my not following up with the absence of my Clerk.

October 31st, - Osborne to Patterson – October report. 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40. Also submitted an estimate of expenses for the fiscal year of 1851 and 1852. Also included a report of coinage from commencement until 1 November 1850. Bullion received included. The distinction does not pro port to be entirely accurate, but the variation, if any, is believed to be quite inconsiderable.

November 30th, - Osborne to Patterson – November report. 4 half eagles sent for assay - \$20.

December 9th, - Patterson to Osborne – a pair of half eagle dies for 1851 sent – the remainder to be sent day today in 9 separate boxes.

December 20th, - Patterson to Osborne – at the start of the New Year, I require an addition to the monthly report, a statement of operations in deposits and coinage for the whole year be instituted together with the assay coins.

Authors note: Due to the sparsity of letter documents starting this year, it was a wonder if there had been misfiles of Charlotte material into other mint files, since it has happened on several occasions in this rehash of documents. However, no misfiles were found in at least the year of 1850.



Image Courtesy Heritage Auctions – Coin has a round depression on the earlobe

The Year of 1851

A Local eruptive disease and a suggestion for silver coinage at Charlotte

January 4th, 1851 – Osborne to Patterson – December 1850 report – 12 half eagles for assay - \$60. A statement of coinage for 1850 included. Also requests supplies for the Assayer and M/R. **Have received 5 boxes of dies.**

January – 17,407 gold dollars were struck for the month.

February 1st, - Osborne to Patterson – January report 8 gold dollars for assay - \$8. You will see a small amount of deposits received for the month. For the last 6 weeks, or two months, our Village, has been in isolation on account of a “contagious eruptive disease”, which we have been visited by some called small, by others Varicellio. Let it be what it may, it has proved very fatal among the black population in Town, and has spread panic in the County such as I never recollect to every have witnessed. All the villages, and even sections of the County, within 40 miles have posed stringent resolutions to prevent any of our people from visiting them, or their people coming to town, which has prevented us from coming down with it. No new cases have occurred for the past week, and hopefully health will return.

February 20th, - Congressman E. Debury to Patterson – Wants to see the coining of silver coin at Charlotte, because there is a strong need for it locally.

February 21st, - Patterson to Debury – there is no difficulty in the start of such coinage which would require an increase of their bullion fund. But any other changes would not be troubling. The silver coin would have to be of small denomination, because of the size of the presses there. Comparatively, few deposits of silver ore are made there, but we are aware of the complaint. This would need further discussion and evaluation.

February 24th, - Patterson to Osborne – the annual assay showed your coin to be 2 thousandth of an ounce light and their fineness at 899.9. A depositor from your neighborhood was here with California gold and asked when he could receive the coin if sent to you – we were unable to reply. Your articles ordered have been shipped.

March 1st, - Osborne to Patterson – February report. **Reception of bullion still limited. Have received 3 head & 3 tail half eagle dies; 3 head & 3 tail quarter eagle dies; and 3 head & 3 tail gold dollar dies. 2 tail gold dollar dies were sent from here**

to Georgia early in the year, the dies having a “D” mintmark. Dies destroyed: 3 heads and 4 tails half eagle; 3 head and 2 tail quarter eagle; 2 head and 2 tail gold dollar. Coiner has 9 half eagle tail and 3 head; 9 quarter eagle tail and 3 head; and 4 gold dollar head and 3 tail – total 31 dies. Do not need any more tail dies for some time.

March 18th, - Patterson to Osborne – received February statement and the list of die destroyed.

March 25th, - Patterson to Osborne – this letter totally smeared – very little can be discerned from it. Looks like technical instructions.

March – 14,923 half eagles, 6,258 gold dollars struck for this month.

April 6th, - Osborne to Patterson – M/R needs 18 carboys of acid ASAP. If not all – 6 would suffice for now for we have received a large amount of gold. 9 assays to be done.

April – no coinage listed for the month.

May 3rd, - Osborne to Patterson – April report. In regard to the speedy shipment of acid – we have but one day left – with a large coinage now being prepared without the acid we will be at a standstill.

May 14th, - Elisha Wittlesy (Comptroller) to Patterson – Charlotte has 5,923 and 6 hundred thousands of silver bullion, which we have determined is too much. Can you justify their need for this amount?

May 15th, - Patterson to Osborne – Comptroller has asked about silver bullion so I will need from you justification for any increased amount.

May 31st, - Osborne to Patterson – May report. 8 half eagles & 8 gold dollars for assay - \$48. Your inquiry on the silver bullion is answered by the M/R that he cannot see any of it can be spared at this time. He may be able to reduce 1,000 to 1,500 ounces during the Fall – but can't part with it now with our increased operations. Pure acid for the Assayer, and 3 carboys have arrived.

May – 8,249 half eagles & 17,602 gold dollars struck this month.

June 21st, - Osborne to Patterson – again asks for suspension of operations for 6 weeks because of the sickly season.

June – 10,176 half eagles struck this month.

July letter in Entry 11, 1847, page 443 totally smudged and unreadable.

July 1st, - Osborne to Patterson – June report and 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.

July – 6,168 half eagles struck for the month.

July 9th, - Acting Secretary of the Treasury (Unreadable who) – to new Mint Director, George N. Eckert – permission has been given to close operations at Charlotte for the period requested – August and September. (Note: A new Mint Director has been appointed)

July 31st, - Osborne to new Director George N. Eckert – July report – 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.

August 14th, - Osborne to Eckert – half of August report and 4 half eagles sent for assay - \$20. Operations here suspended today until October 1st next.

August – 3,279 half eagles struck for the half month.

September – no coinage – closed.

It is noted here that the mint, for the first 3 quarters of 1851, struck 27,872 half eagles; 14,923 quarter eagles and 41,267 gold dollars.

October – 5,027 half eagles struck for the month. (there seems to have been no further letters in the records for this month of 1851 – and just in case, the records for the year of 1851 were thoroughly searched from the Dahlonega mint records to see if there were any misfiled records belonging to Charlotte – there were none – at least in that year.

November 1st, - Osborne to Eckert – sends estimate of expenses for fiscal year 1852-53 - \$11,600.

November 1st, - Osborne to Eckert – October report. 4 half eagles sent for assay - \$20. Coiner requests 100 lbs of fine copper.

November 8th, - Osborne to Eckert – in answer to a request by you a statement of the Assayer as to the usual range of gold ingots prepared by him and enclose 4 pieces of our gold coins taken from as many different melts or deliveries of this year – 2 half eagles; 1 quarter eagle; and 1 gold dollar - \$13.50. **Gold bullion from California**

arriving starting in February of 1851 – 2,235.30 ounces; April – 10,570.08 ounces; October – 2,305.33 ounces.

November – 9,448 half eagles coined for the month.

December 2nd, - Osborne to Eckert – November report and 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40. M/R requests 8 carboys for acid.

December – 6,829 half eagles struck for the month.

The Year of 1852

Gibbon's delays on assaying, and the Secretary's mint closing suggestion

January 3rd, 1852 – Osborne to Eckert – December 1851 report – 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. Had we been able to have had assays of several small deposits, the amount received this year would not have varied more than 2 or 3 hundred dollars from that of last year. This has occurred due to the sickness of the Assayer for last 8 to 10 days. Assayer declined to do the assays, when in absence, alleging that there are no hands in the mint who were capable. When talking to the Assayer his response was, “I have no wish nor interest to delay depositors, but I feel a natural and proper hesitancy to undertake assays, for which I alone are responsible, without competent aid.” I wish to remark that there are 3 workmen, one of whom could be detailed to assist, whether competent or not, I do not undertake to determine. The assistant is now convalescent and probable that the delay will not be long. **Have received 9 boxes of dies.**

January 15th, - Eckert to Osborne – received your note on the Assayer. It is hoped that if such a problem hereafter occurs will have some workman detailed for his assistance from another department.

January 31st, - Osborne to Eckert – January report. 4 gold dollars - \$4 sent for assay. Acid and copper arrived yesterday. **3 head and 3 tail half eagle, 3 head and 3 tail quarter eagle, and 3 head and 3 tail gold dollar dies have been received – 18 in all.**

Defaced: 3 heads and 4 tails half eagle; 3 head and 3 tail quarter eagle; and 1 head and 4 tail gold dollar – 17 in all. Leaving for Coiner – 32 dies for current year: 8 half eagle tail, 3 half eagle head, 9 quarter eagle tail, 3 quarter eagle head, 3 gold dollar tail and 6 gold dollar head.

February 16th, - Osborne to Eckert – a 3 page letter in answer to the recommendation from the Secretary of the Treasury (Thomas Corwin) to stop coining at Charlotte and make it just an Assay Office. The Secretary gives his reasons as an assumption that the deposits of bullion to this Branch Mint are gradually diminishing, and no public advantage is secured by the present establishment. Osborne argues his case to keep Charlotte coining by several facts. Yes, he admits there have been less deposits lately, but gives reasons, and also knows that deposits will pick up. In the end, after this long explanation and support for coining to remain he ends by writing, “The People of the Western part of the State all of whom are directly, or indirectly, interested in her mining operations regard with much anxiety the measure which proposes to abolish this Institution, and will be regarded at this time a peculiar and unnecessary hardship and injustice.”

February 19th, - Eckert to Osborne – Annual Assay reports your coin at 899.8 fineness and weight were quite satisfactory.

February 28th, - Osborne to Eckert – February report. No assay coins are listed in this report. Some supplies needed for Assayer and M/R.

March 30th, - Gibbon to Eckert – (A 4 page letter) – starts with an explanation of his reasons for delaying the assaying of deposits at the end of last year. He continues with his fact that he wasn’t informed of the very temporary (his underline) delay of assays. At the end of that year, Mr. Terres was unable to leave his bedside because of rheumatism – not able to use his limbs. When informed of this I notified our Clerk (in the absence of the Superintendent) in order to prevent any embarrassment of our report. In order to pay depositors who might need money, I arranged with private friends to advance the money. I never heard or saw from the Superintendent about this in until New Year’s day. About 10 in the morning, Mr. Osborne met with me and asked me if it was not possible to make an assay for a W. Briggs – which he described as a “troublesome man” making a noise at the mint about the delay of assay. I told Osborne it was impossible for Mr. Terres, my aid, was bedridden. The other workmen were not accustomed to the duties. I did not prep them to act. I then suggested a respectable silversmith who I could instruct and knew of one. Osborne seemed receptive so I tried to contact that man the next morning. In a few days, Terres was about. I was not aware of any inconvenienced depositors except Mr. Briggs – and he got an immediate advance from my friend. On another note – the only man competent for my room is Rigler – the

Coiner's foreman – but certainly not the assistant I would select for reasons listed (not here). Another is Mr. Irwin – the melter – but absent too much and is a playboy. The 3rd man, blacksmith would rather resign than offer assistance. My duties require a competent assistant. (And now the room) – A former Superintendent wanted a private residence in the Mint. The room for the Assayer was transferred to the Coiner and the Assayer is confined to a small apartment at the extreme end of this building – originally designed and much needed for a laboratory. In consequence of this interference my assistant has to go to the basement when it is not used by the Coiner. The Assayer has no office – cannot receive depositors – is the coldest in winter and hottest in summer. I wish my office to be restored to me.

March 31st, - Osborne to Eckert – March report. 16 half eagles for assay - \$80.

Authors' note: did not find any documents for the April 1852 year. Also went through the Dahlonga mint records, but did not find any misfiled Charlotte records for this April period.

May 3rd, - Osborne to Eckert – April report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Have received no information of the reception of that report on the assay coins of \$80 or of the shipment.

May 10th, - Eckert to Gibbon – Sorry for the delay on responding – have received the explanation on slow assays. It is good that no depositors were left hanging during that time. I must say that the sickness of an Assayer's workman does not furnish a sufficient reason for assay suspension. A mere unwillingness on the part of other workmen to assist should not be considered. A Superintendent order should invoke compliance from one service to another. The workmen should be able to step in and not rely on just one person. *A second letter same date of May 10th, said reports of April and March received and articles ordered have been shipped.*

May 31st, - Osborne to Eckert – May report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. We have received the acids and sand crucibles.

Authors' note: no June documents evident either.

July 2nd, - Osborne to Eckert – June report. 8 quarter eagles and 4 half eagles for assay - \$40.

July 14th, - Osborne to Eckert – submitted again the customary closing of the mint for the “sickly season”. Asking for the middle of August to the 1st of October. It was approved.

August 16th, - Osborne to Eckert – July report and half of August. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. The delay in the July report was because of Assayer sickness and unable to come to the mint, till the beginning of last week – he assayed all that had been received during his sickness.

September 20th, - Eckert to Osborne – send a list of die required for 1853, and estimates for the fiscal year. (Note: seems to be an early request for dies for 1853)

October 6th, - Strange to Eckert – Coiner needs 3 head half eagle, 3 head quarter eagle, and 3 tail gold dollar dies. Has a sufficiency of reverse dies. When the Superintendent returns, we will supply you with your request.

October 11th, - Osborne to Eckert – estimates of expenses for the fiscal year 1853-1854 is a total of \$11,600.

October 19th, - Eckert to Osborne – as a postscript – asks “Have there been a considerable number of your miners left for California and can you report their labor better rewarded there – have any returned dissatisfied?”

November 3rd, - Osborne to Eckert – October report. 12 half eagles for assay - \$60. The balance of assay coins 8 half eagles -\$40 – will be transmitted separately as the whole would be too heavy for one letter. M/R reports that the pinion that gears in the rack of the Drawing Bench as it broke a day or two ago – temporarily repaired – please send another. (Mr. George Eckfeldt will know what is wanted).

December 1st, - Osborne to Eckert – November report. 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.

December 4th, - Eckert to Osborne – some dies for 1853 sent – rest to be sent later.

December 14th, - Eckert to Osborne – all you dies requested have been sent.



*Thomas Corwin Secretary of the
Treasury July 23, 1850 - March 6, 1853
– wanted to make Charlotte just an
assay office*

The Year of 1853

Caldwell returns as Supt, and new Director Pettit dies in office in a few months

January 6th, 1853 – Osborne to Eckert – December report – 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40.

February 3rd, 1853 – Osborne to Eckert – January report – 4 half eagles for annual assay - \$20. Have received all dies sent and have destroyed or defaced the following: 3 half eagle head; 3 quarter eagle head; 3 tail (with date) gold dollar & 1 tail half eagle; 1 head gold dollar – 11 dies defaced total. Coiner has left – 30 dies of various denominations for the current year. I send 3,095.50 ounces of silver, an assay memo, and after your assay and coin, we would like in return \$500 in quarter dollars; \$500 in dimes; and \$500 in half dimes – the rest to the Comptroller for whatever use. Also, I send a diagram of the pinion request for the draw bench.

March 24th, - Eckert to Osborne – as of April 1st a legal deduction from the gross value of deposits of gold must be made, of one half one percent, as a charge for coinage. This will be payable into Treasury – institutions will begin for transfer. Annual Assay results were satisfactory.

April 1st, - Osborne to Eckert – March report. No assay coins listed.

April 4th, - Caldwell (reinstated as Superintendent at Charlotte) to Eckert – Having been appointed, I send my official Bond for your approval.

April 15th, - T. M. Pettit (New Mint Director) to returning Superintendent Caldwell – Your March report operations have been received, by my predecessor., but the report of assay coins for February have still not arrived and the coin. Please send a duplicate form without delay and to reserve from coins for February to be resubmitted in case those fail to reach the mint. The Directorship is now in my hands.

April 20th, - Caldwell to Pettit – sent again the operations report for the month of February and have reserved some coins for the Annual Assay. Please send \$2,000 of silver coin at your convenience in equal portions of ½ to ¼ dollars, dimes, and half dimes – out of silver coin to pay depositors – pays for the silver in their gold.

April 29th, - Eckert (Authors' note: it seems Director Pettit may have been ill at this time) to Adams of Jeffers and Chamber Co. - for shipment of a keg of silver coin to Charlotte.

May 2nd, - Caldwell to Eckert – April report – 8 half eagles and 4 gold dollars for assay - \$44. M/R needs black lead pots – and hope that ones sent are better than the previous.

May 11th, - Eckert to Caldwell – black lead pots you asked for have been ordered. Also the shipment of silver coin sent to you consists of new admission of quarters and old admission of dimes and half dimes.

June 2nd, - Caldwell to Eckert – May report – 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. The \$2,000 in silver coin arrived safely.

June 9th, - James Ross Snowden (New Mint Director since former Director Pettit passed away less than two months into his term) to Caldwell – received your May report and assay coin.

July 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. **The report notes that there is a great falling off in the reception of bullion, attributed to the miners here changing owners, or expecting to do so. It may take the new companies time to get going once again.**

July 5th, - Caldwell to Snowden – entering office, I am reminded of the custom here of suspending operations for the 'sickly season'. I have made application to the Secretary of the Treasury, and hope you will agree.

July 5th, - Caldwell to James Guthrie (Now Secretary of the Treasury) – in explanation of the reason for closing. The fever in this Southern Climate has a certain degree of severity. No gold is deposited, and also all the mines in this region have been sold to Northern companies, who will take time to organize. Closing Charlotte from the middle of August to the beginning of October is recommended. Note: It was approved until September 30th.

July 21st, - Snowden to Guthrie – a misfiled letter endorsing George Eckfeldt to go to California to assist there in starting a mint. (Entry 11, 1847, Pg 606)

August 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. 4 half eagles sent for assay -\$20.

August 23rd, - Snowden to Philadelphia Superintendent – another misfile – but does request \$2,000 in silver coin to be sent to Charleston, South Carolina, because there is a need to pay employees building public structures in that city.

August 27th, - Patterson (for the Director) to Philadelphia – another misfile concerning the California mint. (Entry 11, 1847, pg 614)

September 26th, - Caldwell to Snowden – sent estimate for fiscal year – total \$11,600. Awaiting response of half August report, assay coins, and need supplies. (Letter was received August 15th, with a letter dated October 3rd announcing so.

November 20th, - Snowden to Caldwell – In order to dispense with the necessity of paying in silver dollars for the silver parted from the gold, you will please to cause the calculations to be made conformally to the specimen abstract here – with enclosed, so that 4 per cent premium on the silver parted may be added to the net value of the deposit and the warrant may issue for the payment of the total amount in gold coins. Taking effect on the 1st.



1853 C Gold Dollar (Courtesy of Heritage)

A report came through that the February 1853 report did not arrive from Charlotte and no coin. On April 1st, written by Clerk Strange for then still, but outgoing Supt Osborne, that in fact 8 half eagles and 4 gold dollars (totaling \$44) were sent for the annual assay for that February 1853 month. Upon inquiry with the postal office, the postal clerk said the package of coin was sent on March 2nd. With no further solution, on April 20th, Charlotte Supt. Caldwell resent the

operations for that month of February, and reserved, and did not send at that time, coins for the annual assay. But, on May 2nd, 1853, Caldwell sent 8 half eagles, and 4 gold dollars for the annual assay, which were apparently just replacements? Four of these gold dollars sent will be at issue in the coming year of 1854, and questions will still remain.

The Year of 1854

Yet another fire, and the mystery of the 1854 gold dollar

January 4th, 1854 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1853 report – 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40. Upon cancellation with M/R as to your instructions for “as close a uniformity in Gold Coin”, he suggests the necessity of an enlargement of his Refinery for which we have no funds and an increase annual expense for acids, of about double what now is, which cannot be done presently with our limited contingency fund of \$1,500. Every ounce of gold would have to be subjected to raise it to 990 fine. Our method is to take gold of 900 fine and upwards for ingots, and a sufficiency of fine gold to reduce the alloy, which we look upon as silver to as near as may be 1/3 then add 2/3 of copper to make up the requisite alloy, by which means the M/R is able to supply the Coiner very readily with ingots to make prompt payments to depositors – but to subject all of the gold with our limited means of Refining will produce great delay in making of coin – delaying payment. **Have received 5 boxes of dies for 1854.**

January 10th, 1854 – Snowden to Caldwell – Badly smudged letter – mostly unreadable. Something on reports, and some on estimate for parting.

January 23rd, - Caldwell to Snowden – A graph and letter accompanying, showing a Statement of amounts paid at the Branch Mint at Charlotte for salaries, and for incidental and contingent expenses from 1848 to 1853. Also wastage of gold allowed M/R and the Coiner and silver used for alloy during the same period. (Entry 11, 1854, 0ag 12). The letter itself adds that an additional \$600 was added during this period for 2 Watchmen. For the enlargement of the Refinery it will cost \$1,000. So by doing so, and the needed supplies increase of enlargement will now be for 1854-1855 - \$2,450 or \$2,500 instead of \$1,500 as already estimated. The charge for parting silver contained in deposits of gold for the benefit of depositors is 12 cents per ounce.

January 24th, - Snowden to Dahlonge – yet another misfiled letter.

(Authors' note: Because of the recent numerous appearances of misfiled letters into the wrong mint records, one wonders of the efficiency of the Director's Clerks at this time. Also, there have also been several unreadable smudged letters in the files)

January 31st, - Snowden to Caldwell – in response to your estimate of \$2,000 more for enlargement, I agree, but to pay for such he wrote this, “In order for you to meet the additional expenses of parting, the silver out of all the deposits and refining to 990 thousands, and in order to supply a fund for the purpose, I have upon further consideration of the Act of March, 1853 in relation to profits, concluded to regard the silver parted for the benefit of the mint and not for the depositors as belonging to the mint, for the payment of ordinary expenses, in as much as the expense incurred in recovering said silver amount to nearly the entire run thus recovered.” So credit the amount of Profit and Loss for the benefit of the mint. This prevents a request for an addition to your appropriation.

February 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – January report. Having had to refine all the bullion presented during the month, we have been unable to make ingots for coinage – but will do so in a day or two.

February 1st, - Snowden to Caldwell – another smudged letter but Snowden asks for a report of the amount of silver parted from gold from 1848 to 1853.

February 9th, - Snowden to Caldwell – smudged letter but at the end it says that Annual Assay trial was satisfactory.

February 16th, - Snowden to Caldwell – another somewhat smudged letter – difficult to read. But gives authority for Refinery enlargement, and something about Profit and Loss and sweeps.

February 20th, - Caldwell to Snowden – sent a statement of the amount of silver parted from deposits of gold from 1848-1853 – showing the amount separated for depositors, and also that parted for the mint. I will at once carry out your permission to extend the Refinery, by using Profit and Loss we will be able to without asking for additional funds.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – February report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$40. M/R wishes to receive 12 earthen jars for reducing or sweating silver, 1,000 fire brick, 1,000 lbs of zinc, 200 lbs of fine copper and 12 carboys of nitric acid – this needed in prep for the enlargement. Entry 11, 1854, page 40 has the amount of deductions on Deposits of Gold for each year from 1848 to 1853.

March 10th, - Snowden to Caldwell – letters from the Director are in such poor shape that one wonders how they kept them – and this letter is no exception. Snowden does say here that he received the February report and articles ordered will be on their way. Other comments here in the letter – oh well!!

March 10th, - Snowden to Caldwell – this letter is a redo of the previous (someone noticed the poor quality?). Here Snowden added that (from the above letter) that articles ordered are in route except for the fire bricks, which I have omitted not knowing what kind you wish. Will you require any tiles for the enlargement?

April 3rd, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report – 4 quarter eagles sent for assay - \$10. **At the beginning of the year received 3 head half eagle, 3 head quarter eagle and 3 date gold dollar dies – 9 dies. Defaced 3 head and 1 tail half eagle, 3 head and 5 tail quarter eagle and 3 tail or date gold dollar dies – in all 15 dies defaced. In possession of Coiner – 24 dies total – 3 head and 6 tail half eagle; 3 head and 4 tail quarter eagle; 5 head and 3 tail gold dollar. M/R requires square brick and no tiles. The loss by mail of the coins of February 1853 was omitted to be mentioned in my report.**

April 13th, - Snowden to Caldwell – another smudged letter – something about receiving report. But then rewritten same date, readable, and it does say received report.

April 29th, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Said that he has a daughter going to school in Philadelphia, have not seen in a year, and would like to visit, and asked for permission to leave for 3 weeks or a month to do so. Leaving here sometime about the 10th or 15th of May – no inconvenience to Mint.

May 2nd, - (Someone, unreadable, could be Linderman, in place of Snowden) to Caldwell – received your monthly and request for leave. Upon the Director's return he will be given the request.

May 8th, - Snowden to Guthrie – have received a request for a 3 week leave from Caldwell – if you approve, I approve.

May 8th, - Snowden to Caldwell – I have no doubt your leave will be granted. And, by a May 12th letter, Guthrie gave approval for his leave.

June 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – May report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. M/R requests that the 12 earthen jars for reducing and sweating silver, asked for last March 1st, be forwarded ASAP.

June 6th, - Snowden to Caldwell – the earthen jars were shipped on the 6th of May last

July 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.
In order to carry out your instructions relative to the coinage of 3 dollar pieces (dies for which just received) – the Coiner requests that a tube for the coining press and one for the mill of proper dimensions be prepared and forwarded as we have no means of making them here. He also requests a blank copper piece, coming from the cutting press, and one as it comes from the mill be forwarded as guide. Also needs a cask of sand crucibles. The precipitating jars must have been poorly packed, as only one of six received is uninjured, the other 5 mashed. If the 6 still to come are not packed right into barrels and not boxes, they should be alright.

July 6th, - Snowden to Caldwell – necessary implements for 3 dollar coinage is being prepared and be transmitted in a few days.

July 6th, - Snowden to Caldwell – certifies that assay coins were not received at Philadelphia from February 1853 delivery of same.

July 15th, - Caldwell to Snowden – a repeat request for closing during the sickly season. Also, because there is a new Director to approach with this request. Middle of August to the beginning of October.

July 17th, - Caldwell to Snowden – responding to a request from the Comptroller of the Treasury to renew my bond and bring it up to \$25,000 and it shall be done.

July 20th, - Snowden to Guthrie – sends the Charlotte request and emphasizes that he had heard that the sickness is already worse than the previous year.

July 22nd, - Guthrie to Snowden – request for Charlotte closing granted, but adds that he sends a Sovereign, a half eagle, and 2 quarter eagles with an extract from a letter received with them to show where they were obtained. This letter is unsigned but says, “I mentioned to you that this was a factory for making Bogus coin at Piertonis, Stephenson Co, Illinois – they are very numerous and still at work. They are cautious and careful – but I have got to the individual side of some of them and after several visits succeeded in buying some gold coin – a sample of which I enclose. Two of the principal leaders know me, I have to use great caution in my visits. I will try them again when I get through with my Railroad Conspiracy – I will have no doubt getting into their camp. They manufacture and sell in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Michigan – all gold – though I have a contract with them for silver.

August 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. Coiner questions about the reeding on the edge of the 3 dollar gold.

August 7th, - Linderman (for the Director) to Caldwell – the reeding on the edge of the coin for the \$3 piece is the same as for the quarter eagle.

August 15th, - Caldwell to Snowden – half of August report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. M/R requests supplies enough to have when we reopen on October 1st.

September 11th, - Snowden to Caldwell – please submit your estimates for the coming year. We have you down, with salaries and etc. for \$11,600. Chart breakdown in Entry 11, 1854, page 109.

October 24th, - Snowden to Caldwell – you were instructed to send me a quarterly statement of your expenses for each quarter – I have not received it. I now request that you send a quarterly statement for the 1, 2, and 3 quarters of 1854.

November 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – October report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Sorry for my oversight on your request for quarterly reports – that is now straightened out. We now only have 2 good earthen jars, need 10 replaced.

November 9th, - Snowden to Caldwell – have received your letter with enclosed stated and a package containing coins for assay. Black lead pots receiving special attention and regret the condition of the earthen jars – to be corrected.

November 24th, - Snowden to Caldwell – not having the usual request for dies from you, I have caused a sufficient number to be sent. Also transmit the gold dollar rolling gauge and specimen planchets, and **enclose statement of dies sent. Accompanying list (smudged) has 3 head, 3 tails half eagle; 3 head 3 tails quarter eagle; 3 heads, 3 tails gold dollar – all for 1855.**

December 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – November report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. Assayer requests a box of bone ash cupels – the last package was put up too green, as many were broken in the carriage. M/R has a supply request. **Received the dies for 1855**, and the General Rules you advised us of and will take effect January 1st.

December 8th, - Caldwell to Snowden – **Yesterday we had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire, between 1 and 2 o'clock, as the M/R was melting a pot of ingots. A spark from his chimney lighted on the roof and set fire to the shingles, and had it not been immediately discovered there is no telling what damage might have been done, as it is only a small portion of the roof was injured, which will be**

repaired today. Caldwell added requesting an appreciation be made for covering the mint with a metallic or slate roof, our present wooden one is unsafe – sample taken enclosed for your inspection – to see that we are daily in danger. All buildings in this town are covered with tin, which makes them water proof as well as fire proof. Inquiring of Tinnors here the cost would not cost more than \$1,600 to \$1,800 to cover with tin. If it meets your approval we ask for a \$2,000 appropriation giving the greatest safety, and greatest economy.

December 14th, - Snowden to Caldwell – (another smudged, but somewhat readable letter) – I will give your appropriation request my full attention. Please take all precautions to prevent this from reoccurring.

December 21st, - Snowden to Caldwell – (another smudge) – **looks as if maybe 4 half eagle head dies, 2 quarter eagle heads, and maybe 3 or 4 gold reverse dies sent.**

December 27th, - Caldwell to Snowden – When examining your account, I find that it would be impossible to carry on operations for the next fiscal year – with the limited appropriations asked for the Contingency fund - \$1,500. Expenditures have increased for acid and pots, as I have no doubt we will do a larger business – the large mining companies will be in full operation, producing more gold. So request the fund be increased to \$2,500. Charges at this mint are 12 cents per ounce for parting of silver to depositors and ½ of 1 per cent for coinage. I do not think the charge for parting is more than it costs the mint in the recovery of silver.

Mint of the United States.
 Philad^a July 6, 1854

I certify that ~~the~~ ^{no} coins which were reserved ^{during the month of February 1853} at the U.S. Branch Mint Charlotte for the Annual Assay ~~during the month of February 1853~~ ^{were} not been received at the Mint.

First letter - with mistakes - by Snowden - July 6th, 1845

Mint of the United States.
 Philad^a July 6th 1854

I certify that no coins reserved during the month of February 1853, at the U.S. Branch Mint Charlotte for the Annual Assay, were received at the Mint.

Wm. A. Snowden
 Director.

Second, and corrected letter, from Snowden on non receipt of coins - same date

This letter from Director Snowden, written way after the fact, states: "I certify that no coins reserved during the month of February 1853, at the U.S. Branch Mint Charlotte for the Annual Assay were received at the Mint." Assume here that the investigation for the missing coin from the February delivery was finally accomplished – over a year later? And then, a notation of 4 strikings only of the gold dollar for 1854 was put into the records. A mistake of the clerks to put only a 4 piece mintage in the records? Maybe.

The Year of 1855

More smudged letters, number of reports less, and new roof request for Charlotte

January 1st, 1855 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1854 operations report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

January 2nd, - 1855 – Caldwell to Snowden – sent yesterday also an extract of the Bullion Deposit Profit and Loss, the other half of coins for assay are 8 half eagles - \$40.

January 2nd, 1855 – Snow to Controller Elisha Wittlesy – a requisition from Caldwell during an advance of \$850 out of the appropriation of the contingent expenses for fiscal year 1852-3, 1853-4, and 1854-5, that sum may be placed in your hand to replace a portion of \$1,990,98 now standing charged to him in the last adjusted account of silver and gold bullion in the purchase of materials. The rest is technical institutions as as settle of account is implemented.

This next letter is dated June 20th, but below it should have been January 2nd. Nevertheless, it is smudged but looks to be a breakdown of expenditures.

February 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – January report, but no assay coins listed. Added a statement of the expenditure for the 4th quarter of 1854.

February 14th, - Snowden to Caldwell – Annual Assay report shows that reserved coins for your mint of 1854 are in excess of the legal weight – 1 thousand more was your total. All in all, they met within the legal standard and are satisfactory.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – February report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

March 5th, - Caldwell to Snowden – Assayer requests for several supplies.

April 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report. 4 quarter eagles and 4 gold dollars sent for assay - \$14. I see that Congress has appropriated \$8,850 to put a new roof for this mint as we are daily in danger of fire destruction, especially with summer close – the roof becomes very dray and hot. Could we have little delay on the re-roofing? Please discuss this with the Secretary for I am quite anxious of a fire here.

April 9th, - Snowden to Caldwell – (Yet another very smudged letter). Looks as if Snowden said that the roof will get immediate attention.

April 9th, - Snowden to Guthrie – says Caldwell anxious to get fire-proof roof, and reminds him of the \$8,000 appropriated for it. Emphasizes the summer coming and the drying of the cover over the mint. Asks for his authorization.

This page, (Entry 11, 1854, page 202) may explain the expenditures list that was smudged dated January 20th, precious.

May 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report. 4 half eagles sent for assay - \$20. M/R requests 18 carboys of nitric acid, and 2 of sulphuric acid.

May 31st, - Caldwell to Snowden – May report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

No letters for June evident in the records?

July 2nd, Caldwell to Snowden – June report. 8 half eagles - \$40. The 18 carboys of nitric acid and 2 of sulphuric acid have not yet arrived. Need them immediately – may not be able to carry out the M/R's duties in a very short time.

July 12th, - Snowden to Caldwell – 20 carboys of acid shipped per schooner, "Virginia". There is not enough to pay for this, so make a requisition on the Department for an amount sufficient to do so. (Caldwell's 20 year old daughter Mary died this month)

August 1st, - Linderman (Director's Clerk) to a Mr. W. J. Howard of 136 Canal St., New York – misfiled in this space (Entry 11, 1854, page 217). Linderman encloses with the letter an 1855 (date almost unreadable but it is an 1855 half cent). Linderman is dealing with a collector here. And a Post Script from him says that Snowden has been called away from the city for a few days to see his mother. (Copies were made of this letter by authors for future reference) More comments: There was another letter dated July 29th, 1855, and is also misfiled into Entry 11, 1854, page 218, but is nevertheless quite interesting for it so from collector – from previous letter of August 1st from Linderman to W. J. Howard. First, it seems the half cent mentioned in Linderman's letter that was dated 1855 was forgotten and sent – it was an 1855 half cent. However, this gentleman did receive several other collectibles from Snowden and one was an 1856 Flying Eagle Cent. The letter continues on to page 222, but is not repeated here – copies of the letter were still made for reference. However, it is quite curious that this letter was misfiled into a Branch Mint record -specifically Charlotte's.

August 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

August 21st, - Guthrie to Snowden – Caldwell has asked to close the mint until October 1st. You are authorized to give permission. August 22nd, Snowden gave approval to Caldwell.

August 27th, - Caldwell to Snowden – August report to the 25th of the month. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

September 7th, - Caldwell to Snowden – estimate for expenses for the fiscal year July 1st, 1856 to 30 June 1857 sent.

November 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – October report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. M/R needs 12 carboys of nitric acid and about 1000 lbs of zinc ASAP. (These were forwarded by Snowden from a letter of November 9th).

December 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – November report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. (Snowden received on December 6th according to his letter of same date).

No other letters for December. No report of dies sent nor received?

The Year of 1856

New Roof work begins, and Caldwell wants to keep his small number of employees

January 3rd, 1856 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1855 report. 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$40. Asked for a statement of his account.

January 9th, 1856 – Linderman to Caldwell – sends a list of expenses that were sent from Charlotte.

February 4th, 1856 – Caldwell to Snowden – sending an incomplete report of January operations. Assayer was anxious to visit Richmond, Va., and there has been very little gold presented for assay during the 1st part of the month, I consented. All the gold assayed was done within the last few days of the month, and there has been no detriment to the public. Added, that recently he had a letter in reply of mine inquiring whether temporary protection was to be provided while the roof was renewed. I was referred to Capt. Talcott who is the Superintendent of Repairs of your Mint. He said that canvases

from your Mint could be provided. Would you be so kind to confer with him for that possibility? Without which the machinery and ceilings may be damaged.

February 16th, - Snowden to Caldwell – yes we have canvases for your use. They will be delivered to Mr. A. Whitney of your area when he applies for them.

February 16th, - Caldwell to Snowden – January report, and a statement of the Financial Conditions. No assay coins listed. Adds an Assayer request for some supplies.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – February report, 4 half eagles for assay -\$20. Assayer requests 2 setts of small numbers to mark Gold assay pieces and send me a sett of a large size to mark the gold bars when presented for coinage.

March 29th, - Caldwell to Snowden – concerning charges to depositors for refining. Since January 1st, 1855 no charges have been made to depositors accept for coinage, and where gold bullion contains silver in sufficient quantity to be parted for the benefit of the depositors when a charge of 12 cents per ounce gross is made. There were employed 4 workmen here during the 1855 year, wages \$702 each. 2 of them employed half their time in the Refinery and half in Coining Department, one altogether in the Melting and one in the Assay Department. Caldwell then has a long list of costs for salary, supplies, repairs, etc. Also amount of gold received and silver parted from same. Your question about reduction of employees or pay, I do not feel justified for the amount of work we do.

April 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report. No assay coins listed.

April 19th, - Snowden to Caldwell – figure stamps for your assay coin and bullion bars sent yesterday.

May 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

May 26th, - Snowden to Guthrie – received from Caldwell respecting the extent of the contract of Messrs Whitney and Sons for doing the roof at Charlotte. Have knowledge of the contract terms. If the gutter is not in there then please direct that to the Superintendent.

May 31st, - Caldwell to Snowden – May report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

No June letters in the archives?

July 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

July 29th, - Caldwell to Snowden – asking Snowden to transmit to the Secretary for annual closing of the mint authority. August 16th, till October 1st. Sent by Snowden to Guthrie August 4th.

August 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

August 11th, - Guthrie to Snowden – authority to close operations August 16th to October 1st.

August 18th, - Caldwell to Snowden – half of August report. No assay coins listed.

September 15th, Caldwell to Snowden – transmit the estimates of the probable expenses for the fiscal year commencing 1st of July 1857 – ending 30 June 1858 – same as for the current year.

October 9th, - Caldwell to Snowden – asks for 6 carboys of pure nitric acid, and 4 dozen mattresses for the Assayer. 12 carboys of nitric acid for the M/R.

November 1st, Caldwell to Snowden – October report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

November 3rd, - Snowden to Caldwell – articles ordered by you are in route.

December 4th, - Caldwell to Snowden – November report. 8 quarter eagles, \$20.

December 6th, - Snowden to Caldwell – working dies for 1857 sent: 4 half eagle – 2 heads and 2 tails; 4 quarter eagle – 2 heads and 2 tails; 4 gold dollars – 2 head and 2 tails.

The Year of 1857

Gibbon leaves for Montreal conference without authority to do so

Did not see a December 1856 coinage report here.

January 31st, 1857 – Caldwell to Snowden – January 1857 report. 4 gold dollars \$4.

March 2nd, 1857 – February report. 4 half eagles sent for assay - \$20. **Coiner reports that one of a head half eagle die has been damaged in the last coinage, and requests that 2 new ones be forwarded,** and 200 lbs of pure copper for ingots.

March 6th, - Snowden to Caldwell – Die replacement and copper will be forwarded without delay.

No April letters.

May 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

May 30th, - Caldwell to Snowden – May report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Also asked for ½ ream of paper for a book entitled, Register of Gold Bullion Deposits U. S. Branch Mint Charlotte, N. C.” The other half of half a ream for abstracts with accounts sent to Washington.

June 8th, - Caldwell to Snowden – M/R needs a piece of copper 10 or 12 feet long, 18 inches wide, and 1/8 inch thick for the purpose of bottoming our drying pans. Also 1 cask of black lead pots and ½ pound sperm oil for machinery.

July 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Also report of operations for the fiscal year 1 July 1856 ending 30 June 1857.

August 3rd, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Requesting yearly operational shut down again – middle of August until 1st of October. I am induced the more to make this application as we are virtually suspended – the Assayer having left this morning without my authority, to attend, as I understand, a Scientific Consultation in Montreal, Canada. It is my duty to announce this to you as his absence has inconvenienced depositors between now and middle of the month. Depositors send their bullion in during the half of the middle of the month, aware of our impending closing on the 15th.

August 7th, - Snowden to Howell Cobb (Now Secretary of the Treasury) – sending notice of Caldwell’s request to close during the sickly season. (It was approved by Cobb in an August 10th letter.

August 7th, - Snowden to Caldwell – received your report and notice on your Assayer. I write to know of any application he might have made so I may be more fully informed. (Cannot read the last sentence of this letter, - so can’t tell what further Snowden might suggest).

August 10th, - Caldwell to Snowden – in answer to you of any application was made to me for the Assayer's absence – my answer is that about the middle of June the Assayer requested the Clerk to ask me to make application for suspension of operations from the 1st of August, as he told him he wished to attend the meeting, which I refused to do, the Assayer never mentioned to me the subject until within a few days of his departure, when told me he was going. I told him he could not go before he assayed the gold from the Gold Hill mine – a large depositor of bullion. I added that his refusal to do so would virtually suspend our operations as the men would have no work till the usual time of suspension. Without any further conversation, he left on the 3rd – since then 564 ounces have been deposited all of which remains unassayed, and made no temporary appointment as stated under the 4th Section of the Mint Law.

August 15th, - Caldwell to Snowden – there has been received since the beginning of the month 612 ounces of gold bullion which not being assayed will not enter into my account for the quarter but we transferred to the month of October. Mr. John Rigler, our workman, will be in Philadelphia and as M/R requests 3 glass pitchers and 21 copper siphons for the Refinery.

November 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – October report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. M/R asks for 18 carboys of nitric acid and 2 of sulphuric. Please put in old glass bottles because we had a great loss of breakage from the last order. Also, wants to know if the siphons ordered by Rigler have been shipped – in need of them, also a copper pan for pickling, planchets of an oval form 18 inches long, 12 inches broad, 6 inches deep, handle on each end – like a trunk handle, the other straight about 6 inches long.

November 6th, - Snowden to Caldwell – (an impossible to read letter. It is light in writing that it is unreadable. Have no idea what it says.

November 30th, - Snow to Caldwell – Die for the year 1858 were forwarded on the 28th. 6 half eagle (3 heads and 3 tails); 6 quarter eagle (3 heads and 3 tails); 4 gold dollar (2 heads and 2 tails) – in all 16 dies.

December 1st, Caldwell to Snowden – November report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. This letter written before Snowden's December 7th letter. Emphasizes their inquiries into them with no result without a Bill of Lading which we will need from you. M/R is desperate for the siphons.

December 7th, - Snowden to Caldwell – The siphons were shipped September 26th, and disappointed that they have not arrived. Inquired, and learn they were shipped by steamship "State of Georgia" and probably were overlooked at Savanna, Georgia.

Suggest you write Mr. C. A. Greenes on the subject. If the package is lost, inform me and will find another source without delay.



1857 C gold dollar - First year issue of this design – Courtesy Heritage

The Year of 1858

New rollers sent unworkable, and appropriation for operations problem

January 4th, 1858 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1857 report. 8 half eagles sent for assay - \$20. (This letter was misfiled – into page 448 - past the rest of January into February 1858)

February 2nd, 1858 – Caldwell to Snowden – January 1858 report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

March 1st – Caldwell to Snowden – February report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

March 8th, - Snowden to Caldwell – report from Annual Assay Commission showing how the gold dollar was found to be above the weight limit and also the determination of the other coins tested. (This is but another misfiled letter – Entry 11, 1854, page 464) This letter also has smudging. Snowden writes further – difficult to read – on the circumstances concerning heavy weight coin or something to that effect.

March 17th, - Caldwell to Snowden – your letter of March 8th in relation to the Annual Assay of coins took us with surprise as our Coiner is a very careful and correct

Officer. The Coiner is unable to account for the excess in weight of the Gold Dollar – unless it was accidental. Coiner says scales in adjusting room have been used over 20 years, and do not turn as readily as they might, and the rolls are very defective in gearing, reducing the ingot unequally, so the Draw Bench does not entirely remedy the defect, and tried to long ago remedy, but kept on working as well as he could rather than incur the expense of altering them.

March 8th, - Snowden to Caldwell – (This letter was first miss-dated, and then misfiled) Because of the problems with the machinery, I request that you send me drawings so I know what will be required with an estimate. Will be sending an adjusting balance.

April 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report. 4 quarter eagles for assay - \$10.

April 6th, - Caldwell to Snowden – enclosing a side view drawing of the Rollers, with an explanation of the defect, and a plan to repair. Caldwell then goes into a long technical dissertation on what is suggested for repair or replacement – not repeated here. Estimates for repair – 200 to 250 dollars, but we have no foundries or machine shops in the neighborhood. Could you please inquire with George Eckfeldt on possible cost or other suggestions?

April 24th, - Snowden to Caldwell – (First unsure of date on letter, same old problems of smudging) – A pair of scales with weights have been sent today to you and have been adjusted at this mint. The implements to remedy your rolls problem are being manufactured in this city and will be shipped to you as soon finished.

April 30th, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report. 4 quarter eagles for assay - \$10.

May 17th, - Snowden to Caldwell – yet another misfile and horribly smudged letter. It explains, it is guessed, about the confusion over the appropriations for Charlotte.

May 18th, - Caldwell to Snowden – the Charlotte money was an estimate of something and not the final monies for the fiscal year. (Another smudged letter)

May 31st – Caldwell to Snowden – May report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

June 3rd, - Snowden to Caldwell – your pinion for your rollers shipped yesterday.

June 18th, - Caldwell to Snowden – I see that the appropriation Bill for next fiscal year is inadequate for the salaries of Officers and Clerk at only \$4,500. And no

appropriation was made for wages for workmen and none for Contingent and Incidental expenses. I am hoping there is some mistake. I have contacted our Representative but too late, as the Congress adjourned Monday last. If you have anything on this, please let me know. Usual appropriation is \$11,600 (\$6,000 for salaries - \$3,500 wages for the workmen and \$2,100 for Contingent and Incidental and wages for 2 Watchmen. This amount was requested September last.

June 23rd, Snowden to Caldwell – In contact with the Secretary of the Treasury, there was a complicated figuring of the appropriation of the fiscal year for your mint. It looks that you are alright with your appropriation of \$11,600 – go ahead and reapply to make sure.

July 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report – 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. M/R requests 18 carboys of nitric acid.

August 3rd, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. M/R requests 6 medium size wooden ladles or dippers for the Refinery.

August 10th, - Caldwell to Snowden – As we are unable to keep up with demand for coin without working steadily and uninterruptedly, I have made no request for closing this Fall but would like to take a trip about the middle of the month to the North for 2 to 3 weeks on my own private business which I hope you will accept. (It was approved and asked who is to take your place – Snowden letter of August 14th)

August 19th, - Snowden to Caldwell – regret to learn that cast steel rolls manufactured by Messrs Blake and Johnson have proven a failure.

September 1st, Caldwell to Snowden – August report – 12 half eagles for assay - \$60. I find it will not be necessary for me to visit the North. I have not availed myself of your permission of leave.

October 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – September report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

October 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – Assayer requests small French furnace – sufficient to make 4 assays at a time as the one he has needs repair and not repairable. M/R asks for 4 copper pans and 3 sections of leather hose of 1 inch diameter.

November 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden's – October report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

November 10th, - Snowden to Caldwell – Assay furnace and muffler for Assayer have been sent. Copper pans are finished, but were stolen with other articles from the manufacture's store. They are making another sett and will be sent when completed.

November 17th, - Snowden to Caldwell – leather hose sent.

December 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – November report – 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

December 1st, - Snowden to Caldwell – dies sent for 1859 are: 3 heads, 3 reverses half eagle; 2 heads 2 reverses quarter eagle; 2 head 2 reverse gold dollar – total 14 dies.



*1858 C Quarter Eagle from
Authors' collection*

The Year of 1859

Gibbon asks Snowden for permission to go to Massachusetts, after refusal from Superintendent Caldwell

January 3rd, 1859 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1858 report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. M/R asks for a cask of sand crucible and 50 small black lead covers. Assayer asks for some mufflers for the small French furnace – the mufflers sent previously with the furnace broke in the package.

January 14th, 1859 – Snowden to Caldwell – articles requested have been ordered and be shipped as soon as ready.

February 1st, 1859 – Caldwell to Snowden - (another misfile) January 1859 report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

February 24th, 1859 – Gibbon to Snowden – Please send the Annual Reports you made to my address. We see only occasional extracts in the Papers and feel there is a need to know all. I trust you have seen the Alexander's Report to the Secretary of the Treasury – that gentleman seems inopportune in not finding what was not to be found!

February 28th, - Linderman to Gibbon – the Annual Report of the Director of the Mint is no longer published in pamphlet form – only found on page 60 in Report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the Treasury report on finances 1857-1858. You can obtain a copy from any member of Congress.

March 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – February report – 4 gold dollars for assay - \$4.

April 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report – 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

April 27th, - Caldwell to Snowden – Assayer asks for a box of bone ash cupels as he is near out of them than was anticipated. (Letter of March 5th from Snowden said they will be sent next day?????)

April 30th, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report – 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

May 31st, - Caldwell to Snowden – (misfiled on page 594 of Entry 11, 1854) – May report – no assay coins listed.

No June letters.

July 7th, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.
Plus a statement of our financial condition (goes monthly to the Director and Secretary) of the Mint and a statement of the annual operations of same.

July 22nd, - Gibbon to Snowden – I leave on the 25th for Springfield, MA to attend a meeting of the American ?? for the advancement of Science – early in August. I duly informed the Superintendent – who informed me he did not design to ask for the usual suspension from during mid August. Will you do me a favor to permit my absence during the ordinary vacation – and communicate this kind ref (?) to my address – at Springfield, MA? I think some intervals of labor – for the workmen and their families – a very little gold is presented during this hot and dry period. Gibbon goes on to say something about hot furnaces in the mint, when there is more easy access to the Mountains and the Sea. (Gibbon in this letter has some points that are unreadable)

July 30th, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. M/R asks for supplies.

(Authors' note: There is no answer in the records to Gibbon's letter of July 22nd in his request for leave. So did he get the permission or not?)

September 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – August report – no assay coins listed.

September 12th, - Snowden to Caldwell – I need to better state your grounds for your estimates are based – inform me what amount of appropriations that may arise from changes to deposits including silver parted for the benefit of the mint. And any changes for the next fiscal year ending June 30th, 1861.

October 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – September report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40.

November 3rd, - Caldwell to Snowden – October report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. Answering question about sweeps – M/R at intervals of 2 and 3 months, and especially at times of business, reduces them in iron mill we have for the purpose, and washes them, thereby obtaining very nearly all the gold they contain as his allowances for wastage for the last 12 or 13 years has not exceeded ½ millionth upon the amount. They are then barreled up and put away in an out/house.

November 7th, - Snowden to Caldwell – the working of your sweeps is satisfactory. I would like you to send 15 or 20 pounds drawn from each hold you have on hand. (Sweeps were sent – six samples)

November 26th, - Snowden to Caldwell – assay weights and balances have arrived from London, at New York, and will be sent shortly.

December 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – November report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

December 15th, - Caldwell to Snowden – 2 requisitions to Treasury – one ordinary expenses for \$2,875 – the other for painting the roof of the Mint, as authorized by letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury of August 9th, 1859. (The \$2,875 is for salaries of Officers and Clerk and workmen, an incidental & contingent expenses)

The Year of 1860

A slight preparation problem with the gold dollar sent to Coiner

January 7th, 1860 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1859 report. 8 half eagles for assay - \$40. Have received the sett of weights for the assay of gold from the Superintendent of the New Orleans Branch.

February 11th, 1860 – Caldwell to Snowden – January report. 4 quarter eagles for assay - \$10. My delay in submitting my report has been because of the sickness of the Assayer's Assistant (When did Assayer Gibbon get an assistant? Nothing in the records indicating such an occurrence.) His assistant has been confined for the last 10 days to his house.

February 26th, or 28th, Snowden to Caldwell – letter unreadable – something about Annual Assay results.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – February report. No assay coins listed. Caldwell says that I have not heard from you yet if you have received my February 11th report of operations. (A March 2nd letter – a day later from this – replies in the positive – because of the time, the letter was already in route before Caldwell wrote this letter)

April 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report. 4 quarter eagles for assay - \$10.

Several letters in May and June pertain to bids from various companies to purchase sweeps from Charlotte. Bids were received until the 1st of June.

April 12th, - Caldwell to Snowden – this day forwarded to you 25 barrels of sweeps, and by the end of the present fiscal year, we will be able to forward 10 or 12 barrels more.

May 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – April report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

June 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – May report – No coinage this month – there is no assay coin.

June 21st, - Snowden to Caldwell – attention has been called to a gold dollar from your mint. It is not a very attractable coin. The border is not struck up, the -----? has not not been taken off on the obverse die. It gives a rough and unfinished appearance to the coin. It would do well to tell the Coiner of this subject and to suggest a more

complete polishing of the dies, and prepare milling of the planchets before coining.
Postscript: You can retain the dollar.

July 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – June report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

July 30th, - Snowden to Caldwell – a statement enclosed to show the \$264.68 sale of sweeps from your mint and to be paid into the Treasury. 25 barrels sold.

August 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – July report. No assay coins listed. Assayer asks for small French furnace – and says, “The top of the small French assay furnace last ordered, not being protected by iron hoops, or from the mode of parting it, arrived here broken, and I wish such another, as it expedites business very much when few assays are presented. A carboy of pure acid is also required.

August 4th, - Caldwell to Snowden – the sweeps have not been charged to me. After we had got all the Gold and Silver out of them, placed in boxes, put into out houses and when you required them, they were delivered to the M/R as useless and unprofitable without any charge pro or con, so not aware of any better disposition that could be made of the melt proceeds then to credit them to the Contingent and Expense account of this mint.

September 3rd, - Caldwell to Snowden – August report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20. M/R asks for 18 carboys of acid, 200 lbs copper and keg of salt peter – 30 to 40 lbs.

September 13th, - Gibbon to Snowden – enclosed portions of an Eagle -date of 1847 – from New Orleans. The piece was sent here from Columbia, South Carolina to be examined in suspicion of its authenticity. It was deficient in weight – assayed only at . 582 mills. I did not feel it important to notify the depositor but payed him 10 dollars for it and notify you. Next page of letter lists it as a counterfeit that its thickness was near a double eagle. It is a clumsy counterfeit, easily detected, but it might do well to keep it for reference and pay me the \$10 I gave for it.

September 20th, - Snowden to Gibbon – received your clumsy counterfeit Eagle. I approve of your concern in this matter and send you a check for \$10 to replace your 10.

October 2nd, - Caldwell to Snowden – September report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

November 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – October report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

December 5th, - Caldwell to Snowden – November report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

December 10th, - **dies sent to Charlotte for 1861 were: 2 heads half eagle, 2 heads & 2 reverses quarter eagle; and 2 reverses for gold dollar.**

December 13th, - Caldwell to Snowden – I am not aware that any more articles will be asked for this year.

Two letters are misfiled in this section, one dated December 13th, the other dated December 31st, and both for the New Orleans Mint. Though the New Orleans letter of December 13th might be interesting since it lists the dies needed for this mint for the year of 1861. (Entry 11, 1860, page 117)



1860 C Quarter Eagle - last of this denomination struck at Charlotte - Courtesy Heritage

The Year of 1861

The final four months of Charlotte being a functioning federal mint

January 5th, 1861 – Caldwell to Snowden – December 1860 report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

January 31st, 1861 – Caldwell to Snowden – January 1861 report. No coinage this month.

February 19th, - Snowden to Caldwell – the trial of your assay coin was satisfactory for the year 1860.

March 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – February report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

March 18th, - Caldwell to Snowden – a requisition for \$2,625 to pay Mint expense for the current quarter. It was approved and a draft for same was to be issued to the Charlotte Mint. (This now was sent to the new Secretary of the Treasury, Samuel P. Chase)

April 1st, - Caldwell to Snowden – March report. 4 half eagles for assay - \$20.

Authors' note: Page 155 of Entry 11, 1860 begins with the takeover by the Confederacy with a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury.

April 26th, - Gibbon to Snowden – The Governor of this state has sent a permanent (?) order to the Colonel in command of the District to take possession of the mint property and funds. I beg leave to resign the commission I was enacted to accept by Dr. R. M. Patterson on the establishment of this Branch and wish to receive a dismissal from my trust. Post Script – “While I was with the People they were hoisting a Confederate Flag over the Mint building and on going out, I find an armed guard from a Volunteer Co. at the door.”

May 13th, - Snowden to Caldwell – Even after the takeover by the Confederacy, Snowden sent this to Caldwell – “Enclosed please find statement of account with vouchers for the items charged thereon. The statement exhibits a balance of \$176.55 to your credit.” **(This is the last official letter in the archives for the tenure of the Charlotte Mint before the Confederacy took over the facility)**

Former Mint Superintendent Caldwell was allowed to remain in that post under the Confederate Government, but the mint was an assay office in name only, with no further deposits with no further coinage. Caldwell passes away on July 19th, 1864.

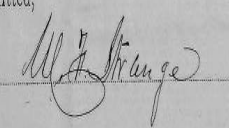
One last note: Former Assayer Gibbon's son, Robert, lived in the mint during the War.

Final statement of finances left at Charlotte after takeover

Statement

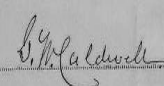
Of the Financial Condition of the Branch of the United States Mint at Charlotte, N. C., on the 31st day of March 1861

	DOLLARS.	CENTS.		OZS.	DEC'S.	DOLLARS.	CENTS.
To amount due Depositors,.....	1250	47	By Gold Coin in Treasurer's Vault,.....			5082	16
" " United States Deposits to purchase Metal for coinage,.....	24,375	00	" " Bullion " "	53	267	996	97
" " gained by deductions from Deposits in profit and loss,.....	25	01	" Silver Coin " "			2069	75
" " " " charge for Coinage,.....			" " Bullion " (<i>Assay Coin</i>)			40	00
" " " " accumulations of Silver,.....			" Gold " M. and Refiners "	47	200	878	12
" " due Treasurer United States	521	54	" Silver " " "	10228	092	11902	17
			" Gold " Coiner's "	548	724	10208	85
	31,172	02		10877	283	31,172	02

Respectfully submitted,
 Clerk.

TO THE SUPERINTENDENT.

I certify that the above Amounts and Statement are accurate from an examination made by me this day.

 Superintendent.

TO THE DIRECTOR, PHILADELPHIA.

July 27th, 1844 local newspaper report of fire at Charlotte on that date

*From the "Jeffersonian" Sept. 13.
Charlotte, N.C. Aug. 1844.*

Communications.

BURNING OF THE BRANCH MINT.
MOCKSVILLE, Aug. 11, 1844.

DEAR SIR: After the discharge of Calvin, Mr. Caldwell and Col. Gaither, requested me to write the opinion I had delivered, and enclose it to you, so that they might obtain copies.

Yours, &c.
RICHMOND M. PEARSON.

JAS. OSBORN, Esq.

Calvin a slave, the property of B. S. Gaither, was brought before me, upon the information of William A. Todd, charged with wilfully and maliciously burning the dwelling house of Green W. Caldwell, situated on the piece of ground purchased by the United States in the Town of Charlotte, and the building, erected on said piece of ground by the United States for the purposes of the Branch Mint, parcel of said dwelling house. The evidence being closed—I remarked that in examinations before a committing Magistrate, the question was, not whether the evidence was sufficient to convict if the prisoner was on trial, but whether the evidence made out probable cause, so as to warrant further proceedings. That to make out probable cause it was necessary to establish two propositions—that the burning was the act of some incendiary, and not the effect of accident or negligence; and that the evidence pointed to the prisoner, and fixed upon him a strong suspicion of being the incendiary.

As to the first, I am satisfied that the burning was the act of an incendiary; from the state of the fire when first discovered, it is clear that it started in the garret over the Coiner's room. The garret had no floor, the space between the joists, and the rafters and sheeting of the roof above the Coiner's room was four feet—laths attached to the lower side of the joists, supported the plastering over the room—many of these laths had burned in two, and had fallen with the plastering upon the floor of the Coiner's room—that floor was burned through—the hole was in a circular shape about two feet one way, two feet the other: Coals of fire had fallen on the floor of the Engine room, which was under the Coiner's room, but the floor of the Engine room although on fire had not burnt through. The flame of the fire on the floor of the engine room did not reach up more than ten inches—this room having a pitch of ten feet and being plastered overhead, it was not possible for the fire on the floor to have communicated with the floor of the Coiner's room through the plastering above. The flame of the fire on the Coiner's room did not reach up more than three feet; the pitch of this room being ten feet, plastered overhead, it was not possible for the fire on this floor to have communicated with the joists and laths above, through the plastering. The flame of the fire in the joists and laths had not reached up to the rafters and sheeting, and although much smoke was bursting through the roof yet it was not on fire—this being the state of the fire when the building was first entered. I am satisfied that the fire started among the joists and laths of the garret, burnt through, fell on the floor of the Coiner's room, burnt through, and fell on the floor of

heard some one, and from the voice, she believed it to be the prisoner, say to another person whom she did not know, "I can break them up root and branch."

The evidence in reply and tending to show a want of probable cause is, that while Col. Gaither had charge of the mint, the trap door was kept fastened on the inside by bolts, and could not be opened from the roof, which fact prisoner well knew, and that while Mr. Caldwell had charge the trap door had always been fastened on the inside, except for a few weeks before the fire, the witness Riglar, a workman in the mint, went up to fasten the trap door, but found that the roof was so fixed, that the bolts would not slip in, and left it unfastened, but fastened the door leading to the garret; so that the prisoner who had not been at the Mint for twelve months, had no reason to believe that the trap door could be opened from the roof: that fact was known only to Riglar, Taylor, Lentile, and probably the carpenters who had repaired the roof. Prisoner was allowed to take his wife to Burke, soon after Col. Gaither removed, where she remained some time, and after her return, his master allowed him on several occasions to come and see her.

The fact that prisoner was missing from his bed, is explained by the testimony of negro girl Rose, who swore that prisoner came into her room some time before day, and stayed until near day light—she is confirmed in this by Dick, who admitted upon cross examination, that prisoner told him when they went to bed, that he had a notion of going to her room,—these two witnesses nearly prove an alibi.

As to the testimony of Cynthia, her credit is assailed by the fact, that she and the prisoner are not on good terms, and had not been for several years; for he once had her as a wife, and left her and took up with the free mulatto: besides she did not mention his alleged threats, until after the fire, and it is strange that she should be the only person who heard him make threats—but suppose he had in the summer of 1843 made the threats, if in earnest, they would have been executed sooner, revenge is eager to embrace the first opportunity and he had been often in Charlotte. Besides this: it was proven that on several occasions before the fire, the prisoner stated exultingly that Mr. Clay was certain to be elected, and would put his master back in the mint, and thus he expected soon to be with his friends in Charlotte again: and after the fire he said sorrowfully that his chance for coming back was now gone. Thus his state of feeling was entirely different at the time of the fire and in the summer of 1843, when the supposed threats were made.

As to the expression at the Spring, the witness had no means of knowing either the prisoner or his companion, it being as she says in the night, and at a distance of one hundred yards—she believes it was him from his voice, this leaves it uncertain, independently of the testimony of Dick and Rose—but suppose the prisoner did say "he could break them up root and branch" to whom did he allude? the evidence renders it probable that he alluded to the free mulatto, and a negro boy Peter, who he had on that visit found out, had taken up with her, and against whom he had on the evening before been making

April 30th 1.

Sir,

I have the painful duty to report to you, that the branch mint at Charlotte, North Carolina, has been taken possession of by a military force acting under the orders of the Governor of that State. This event occurred on the 20th inst. My informant, an officer of that branch mint, states, "while I write the people are hoisting a Confederate flag over the Mint Building; and on going out I find an armed guard from a volunteer Company at the door."

A committee acting under an Ordinance passed by a Convention of the people of Louisiana took possession of the branch mint at New Orleans on the 31st of January last.

On the 8th of April (inst) the branch mint at Dahlonega ceased to be conducted under the authority of the United States, having been seized by order of the Governor of Georgia. And now we have similar information as

to the branch at Charlotte. The ~~as a~~ branch mints in the Southern States have practically ceased to be branches of the principal mint, and, being conducted in an unlawful manner, the coins issued therefrom are not ^{the} lawful coins of the United States. In my communication of the 15th and 23rd of February last I made some communications on this subject to which I beg to call the attention of the Department. The views then expressed ^{now} apply to all the branches ~~at once~~ ^{now} ~~now~~. In my opinion it would be proper that a proclamation should be made, declaring the coins of 1861, issued by the above named revolutionary and illegal mints, to be no longer the lawful coins of the United States; and that they are therefore not a legal tender in the payment of debts. These coins as indicated in a former communication may be known by the Mint Mark below the eagle, or the wreath, on the reverse

Sides of the pieces: the letter S in debasing the branches at New Orleans; D at New Georgia; C Charlotte.

I request that my communications of the 15th and 23rd of February, above referred to, may be regarded as part of this report.

I have the honor to be,
with great respect,
Your faithful servant,
James P. Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

Wm. Salmon P. Chase,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington City.

A 3 page letter, from the left top, then down, then across dated April 30th, 1861 addressed to Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, from Mint Director Snowden announcing the takeover of the southern mints by the Confederacy.

The Charlotte Mint After the Civil War

In May of 1865, after the Civil War ended, Dr. John Gibbon, former Assayer for the entire tenure of the Charlotte Mint (1837-1861) was put in charge by the U. S. Government to assess the condition of the Charlotte Mint after the Confederacy had relinquished their control over it. The Confederacy had confiscated \$30,000 in specie back in 1861. Gibbon responded in a letter dated July 27th, 1865 that: The walls of the Mint needed some repair. The M/R and Assayer rooms were left in a disorder condition – needs cleansing and repairs. Boiler of the Steam Engine reported faulty – needs removal for security. Fences are partially decayed. Machinery remains generally, in the same condition as before the War. Some articles were removed, including the rollers, which could be returned upon demand. Machinery will need cleaning. Roof needs some work. Dr. John H. Gibbon was assigned the Assayer in charge of the mint as of July 28th, 1865 – in complete charge. Further check of the building found other repairs required and articles missing especially in the Assay section. Preliminary report from September to December 1865 shows repair costs, or article needed for same at \$15,000. A final estimate of repairs submitted by Gibbon for contingent expenses, salaries, and repairs amounted to \$5,150 of which Congress would be petitioned, but at that time of December 14th, 1865, there was no appropriation for it.

For two years after the War, the mint was used as a United States Military Post. However, on October 6th, 1865, a William H. Bagley was appointed Superintendent at Charlotte. In April 1867, he was re-designated as Assayer in charge. On March 18, 1869, Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell wrote to Mint Director Linderman that an Act was passed by Congress on July 23rd, 1866 to discontinue the Branch Mint at Charlotte, and dispose of the property at public auction. But this was By rescinded as 2,000 dollars was appropriated for the care and preservation of the Branch Mint building, machinery and materials. Thus, in 1867, the mint reopened as a federal assay office – Dr. Isaac W. Jones as its Superintendent. Two years later, in 1869, with Assayer Cowles now in charge of the facility, some troubles came to the fore in the personage of the famous last named family from the Philadelphia Mint – Mr. Frederick Eckfeldt.

In April of 1869, Frederick Eckfeldt, employee in the assay department of the Philadelphia Mint, was sent to the now Charlotte Assay Office to assist Assayer Cowles in his duties. By November 20th, 1869, Assayer Cowles reported that F. Eckfeldt is frequently drunk and his last spree on the 11th of the month had resulted putting him to bed and under doctor care. I hope he would reform, but such not the case. After his recovery, and return to duty, Cowles reported on March 16th, 1870 that Eckfeldt had been given a second chance and for a bit was well, and then he relapsed and he was worse and of a longer duration. Cowles asked for a replacement for him, and released Eckfeldt as a new assistant was appointed in his place. Replacement was George B. Hanna. The Charlotte facility continued as an Assay Office until 1913, as the mining played out.



U. S. Branch Mint,

Charlotte, N. C., Nov 20th 1869

Wm Jas Pollock
Director U. S. Mint
Sir

I am sorry to have to report the frequent intoxication of my assistant Frederick Eckfeldt whose last spree commenced the 11th inst. & has resulted in putting him to bed & under the care of the doctor.

His life has been in imminent peril.

His habit of drinking must needs injure the business of this Assay office & I ask for his removal and the substitution of another and a soberer man. In view of Mr. E's relations and fine acquirements I have borne with him for a long time hoping he would reform but he seems unable to control himself & I have resolved to give him up.

I will employ a Mr. Alexander temporarily and if allowed to do so may if I find him all right retain him permanently.

Mr. E. was employed by authority

This was the first letter from Assayer Cowles concerning the problems with Dr. Frederick Eckfeldt's drunkenness on duty.

FIRE IN CHARLOTTE!—We understand that the United States Branch **Mini** at Charlotte, was consumed by fire on Saturday morning last, and that there is but little doubt of its having been the work of an incendiary. The fire was communicated to the roof from the outside, where some carpenters had been at work, and everything contained in the building was destroyed, except the gold in the vaults. Mr Caldwell's loss in furniture, &c., has been variously estimated at from one to two thousand dollars. The building was of brick and stone, and with the beautiful and excellent machinery it contained, now totally destroyed, will be a great loss to the State, as well as the country at large, for no steps can be taken to rebuild it without an appropriation from Congress.—*Lincoln Courier.*

